THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

May 5th—11th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 18

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 18, Number 18 May 5th, 1983

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ABOUT THE COVER:

The Fisherman Skillful Angling Award Program which is being co-sponsored by the Genesee Brewing Company this season, is already in full swing. Complete details may be found on page 39. On the cover, Dennis Kelly (left) receives his Al Reinfelder Memorial Award from Fisherman editor Fred Golofaro for the 66½ pound world record striped bass he entered in last years contest.

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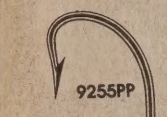

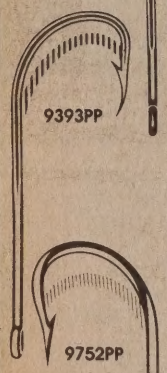

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EDITORIAL

MONTAUK-EAST HAMPTON UNDER FIRE AND STRUGGLING FOR PROGRESS PART ONE—EXPLOITING THE LAND

Sometime ago we wrote about the intentions of developers to build houses on the shores of Northwest Harbor. We joined our voice to those of East Hampton baymen and environmentalists who pointed out that Northwest Harbor was one of a scant few remaining unspoiled tracts of land that contributed heavily and directly to the estuarine productivity of the region. Scientists know that salt marshes (the wetlands that border many estuaries) can produce as much as 250 pounds of organic material per acre per day. This productivity serves as the primary nutrient input for the chain of life in the estuary. The end results of the productivity include abundant shellfish harvests, such as clams and scallops, as well as the nurturing of many finfish including flounder, weakfish, and a score of smaller fishes such as sand eels, spearing, and killifish.

The magnitude of salt marsh productivity can be better understood if one makes a comparison of productivity with a more conventional man-managed situation. A corn field's productivity, for example, is only about five pounds per per day. Thus a question arises concerning the wisdom of converting productive marsh into condominiums, shopping centers, co-ops, and other business usage. Have we asked the right questions with regard to the future of the East End south fork? Perhaps we haven't! Perhaps too much attention has been paid to the people and too many arguments that warn against the destruction of a way of life should all this land development be allowed in East Hampton Town. Arguments that urge for the protection of rights and privileges for productive taxpaying citizens don't seem to hold a lot of water these days—although they should. Nonetheless, one cannot argue with the reality of the times in which we live, and this reality says that one has to be poor, unemployed, disadvantaged, or some combination of these in order for anyone to care. It seems that middle-class, hard-working folks just don't count any more. This is the substance from which this country rose to domination in this world, and we may come to regret our present reality.

So much, then, for the people argument. Can another suggestion be presented that might hold influence over men? Perhaps, if one can link this to the all-powerful vote getter—doing something for the unfortunate!

It should be clear to any reasonably intelligent person from the evidence that I've presented supra, and which can be uncovered in any library with a minimum of effort, that if we destroy the marshes, we will destroy at least some significant part of the marine productivity of Long Island waters. If this were several hundred years ago, it wouldn't matter too much because there would be so much marsh remaining. However, over the centuries we have filled, cut, and poisoned marshes so that today only about one-third of the original marshes remain. Thus, it is obvious that we cannot afford to lose another square inch. This fact is so obvious to so many that some towns have allocated millions for salt marsh reconstruction. Among the more noteworthy projects are that completed in Queens by the City of New York and an ambitious project in Huntington under the wise and vigorous leadership of Mr. Butterfield. In spite of these testimonies, we now find ourselves and our marshes confronted with a devastating threat in East Hampton.

The issue isn't Northwest Harbor alone any more. Other parcels have been added to the plans. These include Three Mile Harbor, Lake Montauk, and Fort Pond Bay. What has been discussed are plans to rezone these areas for housing, motels, marinas, and waterfront business areas. The latest idea calls for 200 luxury cooperative condominiums at the site of the now-defunct New York Ocean Science Lab in Fort Pond Bay. Regrettably, a prime mover in this plan is former powerful Assemblyman Perry Duryea. We are very disappointed in his current posture. Although sportsmen and Duryea locked horns many times over the shape of fisheries management legislation, sportsmen always though of Mr. Duryea as a man with concern for marine habitats and resources. The Fort Pond Bay development project will not promote the protection and conservation of either marine habitats or marine resources. We are not impressed with the plan that calls for, among other things, the construction of a science research facility. No amount of dressing up can disguise this project. The fact remains that 200 housing units, in any form, means at least 600 additional people along with their garbage, their sewage, the pressure on the environment, to say nothing of the destruction of waterfront productive lands. In the end, the project spells trouble for marine habitats and resources.

Much the same can be said for the other areas. This year there seems to be no escape from it. Everywhere in East Hampton it's the same story. In the major estuarine nurturing grounds such as Northwest Harbor, in Fort Pond Bay, in Lake Montauk, and the beach dunes, too. My God, what has become of the old East Hampton Bonacker spirit of area preservation. Has the call of big dollars become too alluring for the few who stand to make so much money from these projects?

The developers point to three studies under way regarding Three Mile Harbor, Northwest Harbor, and Lake Montauk. The details of these studies are not available to us at the time of the writing, but it takes little imagination to picture the basis for these studies if the developers are looking towards them hopefully. We're also not impressed with consultant studies. It is well known in all arenas where such private consulting studies are done that the results are tilted towards desired outcomes as needed by those who are most powerful. Good grief, I had one consultant tell me with regret that what he knew to be true about a report he was writing, and the actual contents of that report when completed could not be the same since a consultant has to justify his existence.

We were pleased to read that Councilman Randall Parsons wrote speaking for the Town Board: "Please be assured that I will continue to vigorously pursue any and all legal means to protect the public and the Town's natural resources from those development interests who seek to exploit East Hampton for their own gain." We are delighted that the leadership of East Hampton has the vision to appreciate the real future of the Town and its people.

The baymen, of course, will be severely and negatively affected by development of lands in East Hampton Town. These effects will come in several very different forms. First, the people who will migrate to the town to operate businesses and own houses and condominiums are likely to be in a higher economic group. This fact translates into more competition for goods and services and an escalating cost of living. Second, and most important, is the relationship between the destruction of marsh and other open lands and the productivity of the coastal ocean. Research demonstrates beyond a shadow of a doubt that development and habitat destruction equates to diminished productivity. Diminished productivity equates to smaller stocks of shellfish and finfish. Smaller stocks of natural marine resources equates to smaller harvests, and smaller harvests equates to smaller incomes, a reduced standard of living, and places in jeopardy the very existence of the baymen.

Perhaps some would say: "What's this? LIF in bed with commercial fishermen?" Once again we wish to point out that we are not against commercial fishing or fishermen. We have only taken exception to some of their practices and their general reluctance to fight for fisheries management strategies because that might mean, for the short term, somewhat smaller harvests, but would mean larger harvests in the long run. We have said before, we will say now, and we will probably say many times that protection of marine habitats and marine resources is the common goal of marine recreational angler and marine commercial fishermen. Take steps to maintain higher numbers of finfish in the sea, and both groups will prosper. Therefore, we have an explanation for our interest and our concern for development of East Hampton Town lands. Habitat destruction and its devastating effects on marine productivity spells trouble for both industries. If preservation of marine habitats and marine resources is the common goal of both industries, then clearly this fight is a common fight.

We indicated earlier that perhaps a better and more persuasive case could be made for protecting these lands if we could relate marine environmental issues to today's vote getting buzz words. Put aside the logic, put aside man's very real responsibility to protect and manage our resources, put aside the rights of the people who live there and who built the place, and put aside the possibilty for the destruction of Montauk as a tourist location—in fact, Long Island's premier tourist attraction—and consider only that the result of the development is likely to put a significant percentage of East Hampton's contributing year-round population (both recreational and commercially related enterprises) out of work. Consider these people as voters. Consider these people as additions to the unemployment lines and the welfare roles, and perhaps we have an argument that more people in key places can understand.

We applaud the Town in their fight, and we pledge our support to protect the unique and valuable marine productivity of East Hampton Town.

Next Week: Part—More Optimistic Developments in East Hampton

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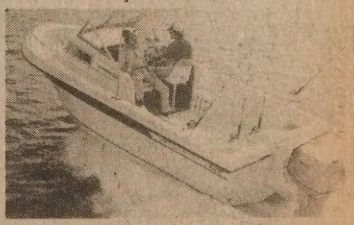

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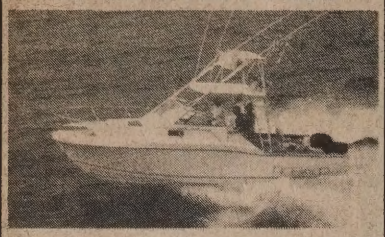

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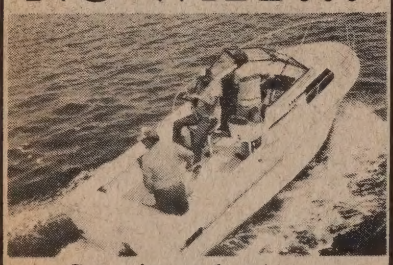

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On Friday, May 20, 1983, Sears, Roebuck & Co., will hold a very special Fishing Clinic at its Hicksville, Long Island store. Bob Rocchetta, Frank Mundus and Captain John Sekora will be the guest speakers. They will be lecturing and answering questions on fishing the Long Island waters. In addition to the guest speakers, manufacturers representatives of Garcia, Penn, Stren, Sekora Lures and Bomber Baits will be there to answer your questions on fishing tackle. The clinic will run from Noon to 9PM and will include big discounts on large selections of major brand equipment, free film presentations, and hourly prize drawings. In addition, all hourly prize winners will be eligible for a Grand Prize drawing of a saltwater trolling outfit or surf spin outfit.

DANNY COMES TO GATEWAY

Once again, plug master Danny Pinchney will make his annual visit to an Open House meeting of the Gateway Striper Club on Thursday evening, May 12th at 8PM. This is typically one of the best meetings of the year, so be sure to get there early. The gathering will be held in Building T-125, Ft. Tilden, New York, just on the Rockaway side of the Marine Parkway Bridge. For information and directions, contact John Marsillo at 212-854-6559.

COAST GUARD STATION FIRE ISLAND HOLDING OPEN HOUSE

In 1983, many of the familiar signs of our waterway Aids to Navigation will begin to take on a new look. Many color characteristics of our buoys are being changed to conform to a new international agreement. In 1983, new federal regulations are being introduced. And in 1983, there are some new Rules of the Road going into effect. This seems to indicate that 1983 will be a big year for education. The Coast Guard Auxiliary has many pamphlets that explain all of the items mentioned. On Saturday, May 21st, the Fire Island Coast Guard Station will be hosting an Open House where these and many other pamphlets will be available. A Boating Safety and Information Booth will be on display at the station, made available through Auxiliary Flotilla 1-3 of Islip. The station is located on Fire Island, 1/4 mile east of the Robert Moses State Park. Also, for the first time, the boat basin will be open to private boats to tie up and dock while visiting the station. Guided tours of the station will be conducted throughout the day by both the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. In the boat basin, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be available to examine the required federal and state equipment as part of the Courtesy Motorboat Examination Program. If the usefulness and serviceable condition of the equipment is up to par, a C.M.E. decal is affixed to your boat as an outward sign to your friends and law enforcement agencies that you have taken the time to have your equipment checked. Flotilla 1-3 of Islip will have Auxiliarists available to answer your questions on boating safety and equipment. Come by boat or by car, the day is guaranteed to be interesting, a fun boating way to start the 1983 boating season. Pamphlets, tours, exminations and fun. The price is free and that makes it the best bargain in town.

SURF CASTING CLINIC AT FORT TILDEN

Farragut Striper Club will present a Surf Casting Clinic at the Fort Tilden Parade Grounds in Brooklyn on Saturday, May 14, 1983 at 9:30AM. Demonstrations and instruction will be given by Art Wenner and Bill Meade in Distance and Power Casting with both spinning and conventional tackle. Dennis O'Brien will present a demonstration and instruction in Salt Water Fly Casting.

This Clinic is free and the public is welcome to attend, so bring along your equipment and sharpen your skills.

LOU ROSADO AT CUSTOM TACKLE

Local Daiwa Rep, Lou Rosado, will be hosting Custom Tackle's big Daiwa sale at the shop, located at 3785 Merrick Road, Seaford (1 block east of the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway). Although the sale goes on through May 12th, Lou will be there Thursday, May 5th and Friday, May 6th only. He will field questions and show you the latest Daiwa has to offer for '83.

NEW SLATE FOR MONTAUK SURFCASTERS ASSOC.

The first meeting of 1983 of the Montauk Surfcasters Association will be held on May 7th at 11AM at the Montauk Chamber of Commerce.

The new officers of the association are: Edward Ferry, President; Bill Young, Vice President; Walter Czaikowski, Treasurer and Grace Ferry, Secretary.

We would like to thank our outgoing officers: Tony Luca, John Pawelski and Betty Grudee for their past performance.

★ ATTENTION ★

Fishing Clubs, Coast Guard Auxiliaries and other fishing related organizations having important information to share with our readers can send it copy-ready to: Pass It On, The Fisherman, Post Office Box 1994, Sag Harbor, New York 11963.

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Stren	.0118	12.1	110,600
Sigma	.0120	12.3	108,800
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Maxima	.0139	15.7	103,500
Ande	.0111	9.7	100,200

All lines tested were tested by an independent laboratory to simulate actual fishing conditions. Samples were purchased from retail stores across the country. Tests proved that Trilene's tensile strength was superior. Tensile strength is based on line diameter and break strength. It is a measurement, in pounds per square inch (PSI), of the force required to break a line. Test results available upon request.

New Products

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Bantam Mag Plus offers so many outstanding performance features that we can't describe each and every one here but, the following list should convince you that Shimano has designed a truly extraordinary casting reel in the Bantam Mag Plus: stainless steel ball bearings, patented 3-point spool and gear support, precision centered spool, stabilizing thumb-rest, low profile palm fit, high speed retrieve and much, more more!

Shimano offers two Bantam Mag Plus models designed to meet the needs of every baitcaster. Model BMP-250 SG is a popular right hand crank and BMP-251 SG is a left hand crank model that's making its mark among thousands of casters who feel there's a genuine advantage to the handle on the left side plate. Both reels share these specifications—gear ratio 4.7:1, weight 8.1 oz., line capacity 8/170, 12/110, 14/85.

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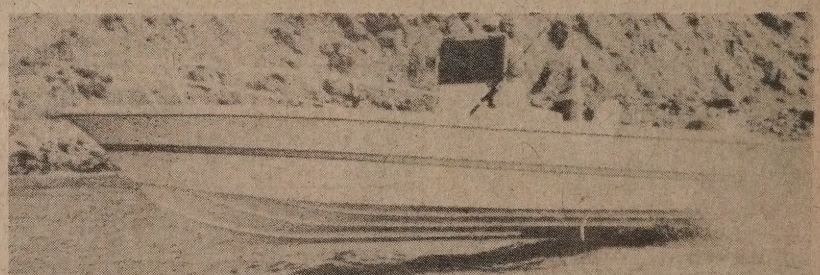
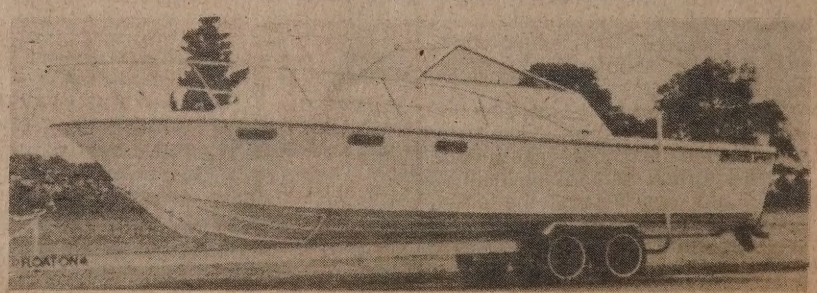


27' HARLEY CENTER CONSOLE



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allows the light to be swiveled in a variety of directions.

It's molded of unbreakable plastic and will handle the abuses of camping, fishing, hunting or little Johnny down the street.

This one's a winner, and gives renewed meaning to the cliche, "Look Mom, no hands!"

For more information write to: Berkley and Company, Inc., Trilene Drive, Spirit Lake, IA 51360 (712/-336-1520).

HUMMINBIRD'S 1983 ACCESSORY CATALOG

Humminbird, a division of Techsonic Industries, announces the availability of a new Accessory Catalog. This 12-page publication features Humminbird's two new chart recorders for 1983—the CH Thirty II and the CH Four-Eighty II—and the Birdtrap portable depth sounder. It re-introduces Humminbird's Super Sixty Flasher, brought back in response to continued demand for the unit. And, it gives a detailed description of the complete line of Humminbird replacement parts and accessories, including specialty and gift items such as clothing and the popular Humminbird clock.

New accessories for 1983 are the spring-loaded Kick-up Transducer (designed primarily for aluminum boats, but equally effective on fiberglass boats or for any installation with the transducer mounted outside the hull), the digital Surface Temp (which reads water temperature from 25 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit), and the Swivel Mount (which swivels through 360 degrees and locks in 32 different positions).

Pricing and ordering information is included in the catalog.

Humminbird's Accessory Catalog is available free from Techsonic Industries, Inc., One Humminbird Lane, Eufaula, Alabama 36027.

BRACKET AIDS SONAR ON ALUMINUM BOATS

Here's some good news about sonar for owners of aluminum and flat-bottomed boats.

The folks at Lowrance Electronics, Inc., who introduced sport fishing sonar to the angling world 25 years ago, have a new product that will take care of some of your problems.

It's called the LKB-2000 kick-up bracket. It's a stainless steel device that holds a transducer (the business end of your sonar unit) below the bottom of the boat. This keeps the transducer face about two inches below the hull.

Most aluminum and flat-bottomed boats have rivets, strakes and other hull protrusions that cause wakes and air bubbles to boil behind the boat. These bubbles, passing over the face of a transducer, interfere with the sonar unit's return echoes. The new bracket solves the problem.

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IMPORTANT MEETINGS ON BLUEFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN UPCOMING: MAY 24, 25 & 26.

Watch for Editorial in Issue Number 20, May 19th.

will catch on logs, rocks, stumps or some floating object. That's where the "kick up" part comes in. The LKB-2000, in the event it collides with some solid object, will "kick up" or swing back, without ripping the transducer bracket and holding screws out of the transom. It virtually eliminates damage to the transducer or boat hull.

The new bracket can be purchased at marine supply dealers throughout the country. If you'd like more information, contact the Public Relations Department, Lowrance Electronics, Inc., 12000 Skelly Drive, Tulsa, OK. 74128.

SEALINE MAGFORCE. A NEW ERA FOR OCEAN CASTING

When Daiwa introduced the new **Sealine Magforce** (TM) Series of high-speed conventional ocean casting reels at the recent AFTMA Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, a new age of backlash-free live-bait and lure casting dawned for saltwater anglers.

Backlash has been the bane of the ocean caster since the not so go old days when eastern surf fishermen tossed black tin squid at stripers and bluefish.

Although there are still Eastern Seaboard enclaves where the old "squidding" traditions holds out, by and large surf fishing has become mostly a spinning tackle affair in recent years. But the new Sealine Magforce reels shows some promise of reversing that trend, since the revolving spool reel holds definite mechanical advantages and distance casting superiority over present-day spinning reels.

Their mechanical advantages include greater cranking power and less tendency to introduce twist into the line while playing a fish or retreiving a lure. The generally larger multiple disc drag washers found in ocean casting reels also contribute to smoother-running drags.

Off California and the Baja Peninsula, where live bait casting is the standard method of hooking up with everything from albacore to striped marlin, the backlash taming Sealine Magforce reels are sure to be an immediate hit, in that they permit casting lightly weighted or "fly-lined" (unweighted) live baits to good fishing distances without the fear of backlash.

This same advantage will be readily apparent to update ocean anglers who have switched to the relatively light-weight, deadly, air-resistant soft plastic jigging lures.

Daiwa introduces three models into the Sealine Magforce Series.

The SMF-170 carries 440 yards of 14 pound test monofilament line and has a powerful 3.8 to 1 retrieve ratio, which is ideal for muscling in ocean heavyweights on light-test lines. It's sure to be a hit with light-liners in search of stripers, weakfish and bluefish, albacore and bonito.

The larger SMF-250's generous 450 yard capacity for 20 pound test line,

plus its 4.2 to 1 retrieve ratio suit it ideally to fishing for the smaller tunas, sailfish, white marlin and striped marlin with light test lines.

And for the high speed retrieve artists with "iron," "tin," and "soft baits," the SMF-170H's blistering 5.1 to 1 retrieve ratio is sure to create as much of a saltwater stir among freshwater bass fishermen as did last year's first offerings with the Magforce principle.

Couple the generous line capacities of these reels with the hottest performance feature of the past two decades, and with stainless steel ball bearings, unitized frames, and counter-balanced handle systems, and it seems certain that Daiwa's new Sealine Magforce reels will not only turn a lot of heads, but also change a lot of fishing habits.

For further information, write Dept. PK-82, Daiwa Corporation, 14011 S. Normandie Ave. Gardena, CA 90249.

NEW LEADER COMBINATIONS

Berkley introduces three new leader/snap combinations to their line of quality leader products. Strong, reliable—they eliminate line twist, prevent "Bite-offs," and make lure and rig changing fast and easy!

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The Ball Bearing Steelon Leaders with Cross-Lok snaps in bright and black finish both boast Berkley's Ball Bearing swivels for super smooth rotation. The Heavy Duty Leaders with Cross-Lok snaps (black) are equipped with McMahon swivels to eliminate line twist.

Each is available in several lengths and pound tests. All are packed in Zip-Lok bags.

For more information write to: Berkley and Co., Inc., Trilene Drive, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360.

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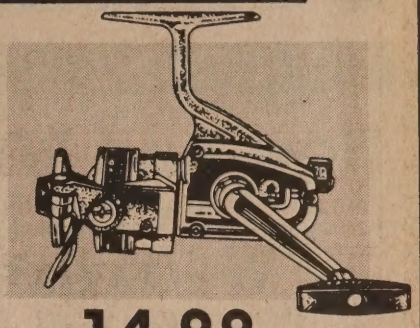

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May 24, 7:00p.m.	Room 100, Lecture Center, State University of New York at Stony Brook.
May 25, 7:00p.m.	Amityville Senior High School, Montauk Highway, Amityville.
May 26, 7:00p.m.	Valley Stream Senior High School, Fletcher Avenue, Valley Stream.

Those Planning to Speak Should Contact Mr. John Mason in Advance at (516) 751-7900.

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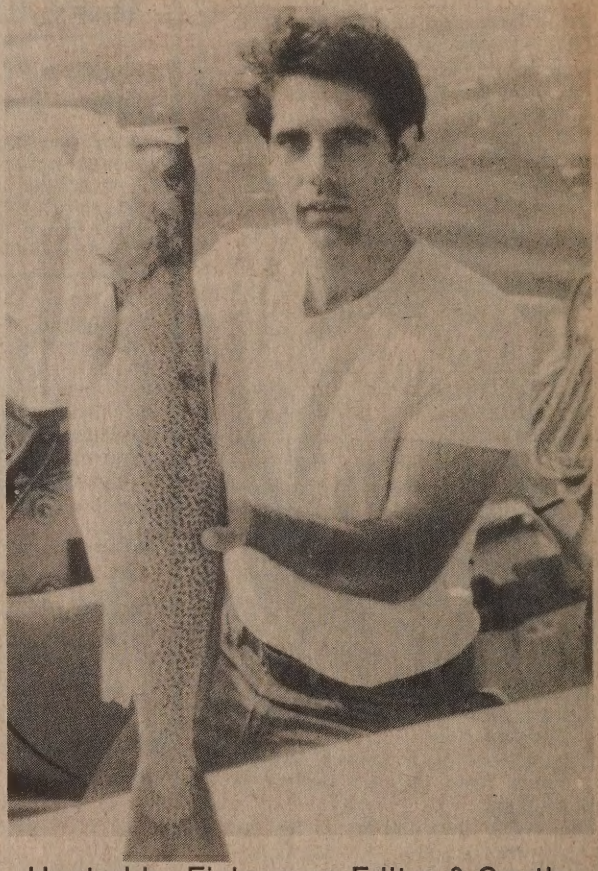

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MACKYS BACK IN TOWN

by Gerald Hahn

While their visit is generally short and sweet, the mackerel invasion is anxiously awaited by scores of Long Island anglers.

Last spring it seemed as though Mack the Fish was more elusive than Mack the Knife. When party boat skippers start looking for mackerel in over 100 feet of water, you know something's wrong, and when party boat anglers envy the one fisherman with a mere double-header adorning his rig, you wonder where the rest of the fish went. For sure, last season's mackerel run was the shortest in years.

This time, however, the culprits were neither industrial pollutants nor commercial netters. The culprit was April. Exceptionally cold weather, highlighted by a record-breaking blizzard that swept in from the west, drove the mackerel schools out to sea as they were heading up the Jersey coast. Most of the fish never saw Long Island, and those few that did settle down were soon sent scurrying by the first wave of bluefish. Some mackerel fishermen found the East End bays and sectors of Long Island Sound productive. However, south side fishermen, who usually catch the most mackerel in New York Bight, were perplexed.

Ordinarily, mackerel are so prompt and abundant, you can set your clock by them. Indeed, their schedule is more reliable than the Long Island Rail Road's. Incredible numbers of mackerel migrate from the depths of the mid-Atlantic to the Carolinas. Then they hang a right and travel up the coast. By late April, mackerel pile into the New York Bight like cars converging on the Midtown Tunnel. A week later, the fish are stacked like cordwood all around Long Island. Barring any blizzards this April, Macky will be back in town and the fishing will return to normal.

And **normal** mackerel fishing is not to be missed! It is fast and furious, even for beginners. Indeed, novices on party boats become spoiled when they start slinging three and four macks at a time over the rail.

How is it possible for mackerel fishermen to catch as many as five fish at once? The answer is a rig known as a mackerel tree, which consists of four hooks and a diamond jig. Mackerel tree rigs, with or without the diamond jig, are sold in almost every tackle shop. The rig begins with a long leader of about 30 or 40 pound test, which serves as the tree trunk. On top of the leader is a barrel swivel (preferably a dark one) for connecting the rig to the fishing line with an improved clinch knot. The swivel also reduces line twist. On the bottom of the leader is a snap or an end loop for securing a two to four ounce diamond jig. Forming the branches of the tree are four large dropper loops, spaced about 8 to 12 inches apart on the leader. The hooks size 1 to 1/0 Carlisle, Beaks, Pacific Bass, O'Shaughnessies, Limericks or other long-shank styles, are connected directly to the droppers. No snelled leaders are employed. Bright tinker tubing covers the hooks, and some trees are a carnival of colors; other trees are all-red, red-yellow,

(Continued on next page.)

Anglers Jerry Feldman and Alfred Ikenson with two pair of macks. When the fishing's hot, scoring with three and four fish at a time is not unusual.

indeed, nearly any combination. The diamond jig, however, with a single or treble hook, needs no further adornment.

Many people, such as my two fishing buddies, Alfred Ikenson and Jerry Feldman, favor custom-made trees, and so do I. Last season, they decided to try red surgical tubing on three-hook rigs, and when I argued that the tubing was too thick for mackerel, they said "Let's see." Soon they were catching more fish than I, which only proves there is more than one way to trim a three. Other anglers, for example, adorn their hooks with dyed synthetic hair, reflecto tape, mylar, even tin foil. I always fashion a variety of mackerel trees: 2, 3, and 4 hook combinations, some multi-colored, some all-red, in addition to the diamond jig. Moreover, I use different weight leaders for the rigs. A good thing, too, for last season's scattered mackerel rejected trees with 40 pound test leaders and gobbled up those with 25 or 30 lb. test. In a pinch, you always tie the hooks directly to droppers on the main line.

When a mackerel tree rig is properly handled, its movement suggests a large baitfish chasing a school of smaller fry. Mackerel are more attracted to this artificial rig than to natural baits. Indeed, when the macks are densely schooled around a party boat, they become fiercely competitive, and several fish pounce on the rig at once. No wonder so many mackerel are caught in such a brief period!

Party boat fishing for mackerel is generally performed with a medium boat rod, six or seven feet long, and a conventional reel such as the Daiwa 50-H or the Penn Jigmaster, filled with 30 pound test. Many fishermen, however, favor spinning gear, consisting of a hefty seven or eight foot spinning rod matched with a medium surf-spinning reel, such as the Penn 650 or the Garcia 306, filled with 20 or 25 pound test. In any case, a strong rod is required for lifting several mackerel over the rail. Indeed, a full tree can weigh 10 pounds! Moreover, multiple hook-ups on long rigs inevitably lead to multiple tangles on party boats, and lighter line than 20 pound test may result in lost fish or a lost rig.

When mackerel are scarce, party boat skippers will drift for them. Most of the time, however, the mackerel are so thickly concentrated that the fishing is performed at anchor. If the boat is not crowded, the captain will turn it so that fishermen face upcurrent. On a crowded day, the captain will give each side a turn. Thus, the angler who fishes from the upcurrent side makes a fairly long cast, pauses briefly, and engages the reel. Then he jigs the rod up and down while slowly retrieving the rig. When the rig starts heading under the boat, it's time to reel in and try again. Meanwhile, the angler on the downcurrent side of the boat also will catch fish, provided he does not cast his rig. He should simply lower his to the appropriate depth—generally about 20 or 30 feet below the surface—and pump his rod in the same fashion. When the rig drifts too far out, it is retrieved and lowered again. No matter which side you jig your rod, the mackerel will favor the fluttering action of the rig on the down-stroke to the up-stroke. But when the macks are stacked under the boat, it will make little difference which side you fish. Everyone catches mackerel.

By no means are mackerel caught exclusively by heave-and-haul anglers on party boats. On Long Island Sound, for instance, many skiff renters prefer quality to quantity mackerel fishing, and the same is true for private boat owners fishing the Atlantic. North or south, these fishermen use light tackle: a six or seven foot spinning rod matched with a reel no larger than the Daiwa 1300 filled with 6 or 8 pound test. Instead of mackerel trees, they use a combination rig consisting of a small metal lure and a single teaser (borrowed from a mackerel tree) about eight inches above. Such metal lures as Hopkins, Kastmaster, mackerel jigs (a variant of a diamond jig), and other similar types weighing about an ounce, are employed. Some anglers tie a 15 pound test shocker for this rig,

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which puts more fish in the box but reduces some of the sport. In any case, a landing net is essential when fishing with light tackle. Indeed, the macks are so quick that trying to net one is as exciting as playing one.

Small boat anglers, lacking the attraction of many lures in the water, generally find drifting for mackerel more productive than anchoring. Casts are made diagonally ahead of the drifting boat, and a quick retrieve, accompanied by twitching the rod, attracts the mackerel to the teaser. As can be seen, the method is similar to fishing for small blues.

Mackerel weigh only a pound or two and do not fight as hard as tailor blues. However, they are quicker than bluefish, their runs more resembling those of a tuna. Speed and stamina are essential for the mackerel's long migrations and for evading predators. In fact, a mackerel never stops running. Not that he has a choice in the matter, since he possesses no air bladder. Instead the mackerel is graced with streamlined proportions, a large tail and the tiniest scales in the forepart, for reducing friction in the water. A pointy snout helps him slice through the liquid medium as well. The speedy mack is also one of the most beautiful fish in northeastern waters. Dark, wiggly stripes on an electric blue or green field spill down his back onto a glistening silver-white side and belly. Two rows of finlets, just ahead of the tail, resemble punctuation marks—at the end of a sentence. Run your hand over a mackerel and you will feel no slime—just a metallic surface, slick as a brand-new sports car.

The spring mackerel run generally lasts only about two weeks, the first two in May. During the third week the schools scatter northwards and prime fishing is reduced to the early hours of the day. Notwithstanding last season's offshore search by party boat skippers, mackerel are found closer to shore, in 60 to 80 feet of water, anywhere from one-half to five miles out. On the Sound, they are taken within a mile from shore, sometimes in water no deeper than 20 feet.

Mackerel also move into the East End bays—the Peconics and Gardiner's—although these visits are somewhat erratic. Nonetheless, sharp flounder fishermen here come prepared with metal lures or mackerel trees. Montauk's party boat fleet is usually too busy at this time chasing snowshoe flounder, cod and pollack, to worry about mackerel. However, fishermen in rental skiffs and private boats often find all the mackerel they want to catch at Montauk.

Catch all the mackerel you want, too, but put them to good use and release the rest, so that we may all enjoy mackerel fishing for years to come. I'd rather blame the weather than greedy fishermen for a poor mackerel run. In "The Three Penny Opera," Mack the Knife pulled more than one disappearing act. Let's not say the same for Mack the Fish.

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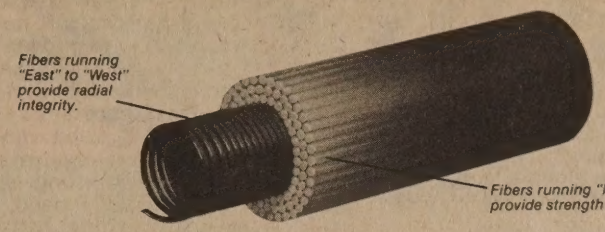

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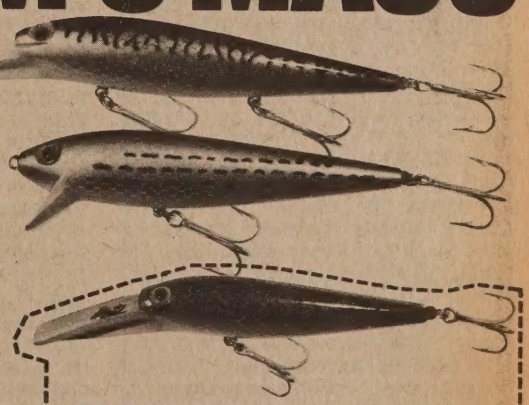

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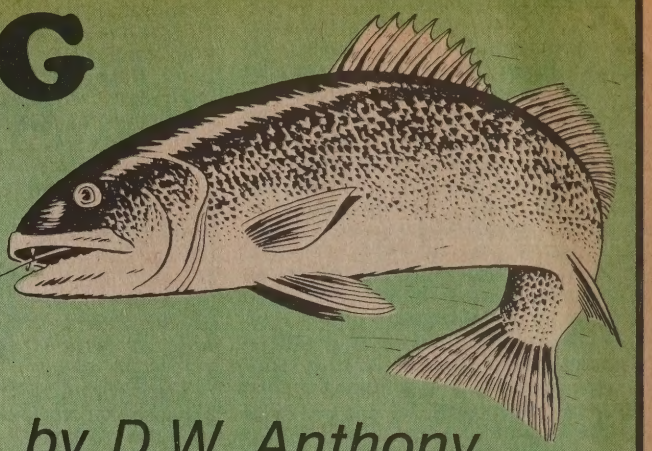

by D.W. Anthony

Along about this time we start to have strong urges to get out and catch a few weakfish. A number of places usually come to life at about the same time, and a surf fisherman can have some real problems deciding where to fish. Worse still, a surf fisherman can have real problems catching a weak or two even after they have found them.

Weakfish may pop up from Staten Island to Shinnecock Canal now. Some places are likely to offer better prospects than others, but reports of catches should be generally well dispersed, but erratic. The fish are on the move into estuaries where they can spawn, they are gearing up for the spawning process, and since the water is cold and the weather changeable they can be severely affected by sudden, albeit, temporary weather changes. All this adds up to big problems for the recreational fisherman—especially the surf fisherman. We may read a printed report or hear from a friend of a friend that a good catch of weaks was made, let's say, at the Drawbridge in the State Channel east of Oak Beach. The next evening with the tide right and the weather good we rush to the spot. We find that we aren't the only one to hear the good news and there are perhaps 50 to 100 other fishermen lining the banks. We fish for hours and only one fish is taken. What happened? These early weaks are moving as we said earlier. Their interest is in migration and getting ready to spawn, not in staging for a prolonged feeding. The fish caught the day before are long gone and only those fishermen who were lucky enough to be there when they passed by were able to score!

Much the same thing can happen at Shinnecock. Although a genuine run of weaks is the rule at the Canal, there will be days and nights with more fish and others with less fish. It is the way of things. In addition, the run in the Canal which used to span ten days to a week or more, now is over in a few days, and many surf fishermen may get the word too late to take advantage.

At this time of year weaks also hit and run at Staten Island, where in a few weeks they may settle in to feed on bunker or other small bait which has established itself in residence. Much the same is true of Jones Inlet where a few lucky fishermen each year take weaks from the shores of the inlet on one evening much to their delight.

Where does this leave us? Well, in the early days of the run we should not have high expectations and we should not chide ourselves for guessing wrong. I've always found the best approach is to go fishing, try to have a good time, and if I end up in the right place at the right time once in awhile, so much the better. If I don't catch fish, I try not to become disappointed. There's something about the start of a new surf fishing season that is very invigorating. The warm evenings with light winds, the sight of fellows who have been holed up in houses and not seen since last fall, and the sight of an occasional bent rod or shimmering fish are enough to be pleasing.

Thus, the early week or two (depending upon how cold or warm it gets and how fast it gets that way) focuses on fishing that's more chance-dependent than at any other time of the season. The problem for the fishermen is not to fool weakfish, but to find them. However, as the early days of May unwind and the days and nights become warmer and warmer, more and more of the fish have spawned and are settling down to fatten up, and there are fewer of those lingering reminders of winter with cold north winds and driving rain. Thus, the season is establishing itself. The fish that have just spawned will track around the estuary looking for concentrations of bait and when they find their quarry they will begin a feeding pattern to relentlessly hunt them down. Usually, the early bait is shrimp and sometimes sand eels which are examples of bait that do not usually wander too far from home. Thus, a school of fish will be on that bait day after day. A smart surf fisherman would be wise to stick with these daily gatherings and work them hard. Fortunately, the water is getting a little warmer and the fish are becoming a little more active. Also, as the waters warm the fish become ever more willing to feed at night which is when the surf fisherman has the best shot at them. When the water warms to the point where spawned-out fish begin a routinized feeding schedule, the first nights will show evidence of only a few fish, but each night that follows there will be more and more signs of feeding fish as more and more spawned out fish join the fray.

Eventually, we get to a point where the school of weaks is quite large and reasonably active. This peak in fishing opportunity will last for about five days to a week. Then water temperatures will get to a point where it is warm enough to begin the seaward migration. The point is that timing is very important. Don't expect a run to last for weeks and weeks. That isn't the way it is. Typically, the best back-estuary early season activity is in the first few weeks of May and then subsides quickly.

Therefore, I believe we have reached a point in this discussion where the meaning of early season weakfishing is clear. One is hard pressed to assign a week or period or days to "early season" since so much depends on fickle spring weather. Last year, for example, an April blizzard delayed the normal progress of the season by about two weeks. Eight years ago, 90 degree temperatures for about four days in late April resulted in a rapid advance of the early season. This unpredictable nature of the spring is not typical of summer or fall and therefore, a surf fisherman's approach to the early season needs to be more careful. It is very important to "keep your ear to the grindstone" for information about weaks caught here and there. Tidbits put together can tell much. Take the incoming information and attempt to develop a picture in your mind of how stages of fishing are progressing. Then "test the waters." Go to a spot

and try it. Look and listen to what others are doing and saying.

All this evaluation may seem to be a big pain in the neck and some may think it isn't worth the effort. That's a personal decision. However, before a surf fisherman can worry about the techniques of fooling early season weaks, that fisherman will need to place him or herself where the fish are when they are there.

Enough said. Let's assume you have done all of that. Let's assume the season is progressing normally and you now find yourself on an early May evening fishing quiet waters for weaks. As the last gusts of the late afternoon southwesterly sea breeze fade and the surface of the water turns to a mirror finish, you begin to hear "pops" that are characteristic of weaks rising to the surface to engulf shrimp or sand eels. The adrenalin begins to flow, your excitement floods through your body. You fumble for a plug and the snap won't close because you're trembling in anticipation. Your first cast is off to the right and not far enough to reach the fish. As you retrieve your plugs for another cast you are aware that there are more and more slurps, pops, and gentle splashes. Your next cast is better and you retrieve, but there are no hits. The fish keep breaking, you keep casting, and there are no takers.

By now you are second guessing yourself and wondering if your technique has fallen short. Then another fisherman wades quietly into the water. He begins to cast and he, too, can catch nothing. After an hour of casting to breaking fish that seem to have no mouths, the adrenalin subsides and you begin to relax. You realize it is time to take stock. Perhaps you step out of the water, light a cigarette and watch and listen. There is no longer a need to be hasty. The fish have settled in and will clearly stay for the remainder of the tide. Better to figure a way to get them to hit than to cast frantically and in vain.

What makes these early fish so difficult to fool? Water temperature is part of the answer, since it is still quite cool. However, the biggest problems have nothing to do with physical conditions. First, there isn't as much bait out there as the level of fish activity might seem to indicate. Put your neck light on while facing the shore. Typically, there'll be a shrimp here or a sand eel there. The significance of this is that the weaks will be very, very spread out. Thus, it is possible for you to make cast after cast and not make a cast near a feeding fish. The second problem is that there aren't as many weakfish present as you might believe to be present based upon the pattern of the splashes. Now, based upon our fishing experiences in other seasons and other past seasons, we are drawn to conclude that there are lots of fish swimming leisurely close to the bottom and here and there fish rise to drifting bait. This isn't the case. In truth there are usually few fish and they are scattered under bait that is scattered.

What can one do about this situation? First, no panic! Forget about the splashes! Don't try to cast to the splashes. Cast and fish relentlessly, but casually. Stay loose. Next, think about the plug you are using. Does it swim fast, or does it need to be retrieved rather fast? If that's what you're using—don't. These fish are feeding casually on drifting bait and will not chase something that's flying around. They want what's easy. So whatever you throw will have to be retrieved sooooo slowly! If you use a plug, the retrieve needs to be so slow that it does not swim. Often, no retrieve with a twitch here and there is more effective as the plug drifts with the current.

Bucktails are often good as are plastic worms, but only if they can be dragged slowly across the bottom. If the place is weedy, forget about this approach. If the bottom is clean sand or mud, then give it a try.

It has been my experience that most bottoms in spring are littered with weed, thus dragging something along the bottom is almost always out of the question. Floating plugs may not be the best answer since the water can be 10 to 20 feet deep and weaks may rise to the surface only by chance and not specifically in search of your plug. Indeed, getting your offering near the bottom will help. Many fishermen feel that the size of the plug is the key. Within reason we don't disagree. Such times call for small offerings to match the small bait. However, size isn't so critical that you'll need to go to plugs so small that they can't be cast. Gee, I've seen plugs used that are so small that a sunfish might miss them!

Therefore, four and three inch plugs are a good choice, but there have been times when five inch plugs work just as well. Some fishermen approach the problem of getting the plug deep by using sinkers while others use plugs are are loaded. That is, loaded with several cubic centimeters of water. You can check back issues of The Fisherman for discussions of how to do this. I've found the new Rebel plugs with a lead shot in the lip to be very effective. These plugs don't dig, rather they ride well below the surface at a steady level. When retrieved slowly they can be made to almost stand still at various depths which is a good simulation of a baitfish's behavior.

In summary then, fooling early season weaks seems to hinge on the following. First, try to gauge your outings to that time when the weaks begin night feeding on a regular basis. Second, select evenings with favorable weather conditions. Third, fish deliberately. Fourth, use floaters or sinkers depending upon water depth. Fifth, retrieve very, very slowly. Good luck. There should be some really early season monsters out there this spring.

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SPRING GRAB BAG

by Matt Ahern

For the south shore sinker bouncer, May spells variety.

Well—here it is: the beautiful month of May. How about that? May seemed so long in getting here, we poor, anxious, champing-at-the-bit fishermen were just about ready to believe it would never arrive at all. But here it is.

Know what I like best about the month of May? It's the "change-over" month. The air is balmy (or at least it will be soon); the trees have leafed; the robins have returned in force, with their promise of another summer at hand; terns will have arrived by the third or fourth day—all Nature is in full flower.

But best of all, the fish have shaken free of the doldrums of winter, the time when Nature makes up for all the dreariness of cold and gloom—the time when we fishermen find it most difficult to resist the call. We know, just know, mind you, that husky May flounder are growing fatter and scrappier with each passing day and that the "sharpie" may have already scored with a weakfish or two; if not, certainly by this weekend. Mackerel are on tap, the vanguards of hungry sea bass will soon be on hand; and when this happens, can the scrappy sea porgy be far behind? And what about the pugnacious blackfish? The offshore and inshore grounds will soon play host to countless numbers. And ling? Ah, yes, good old ling; friend to beginner and veteran alike. Got a good-sized fish bucket handy? Go out and fill it with bait-happy ling. Fluke? What about fluke? Some are already prowling inshore waters and available for the early-bird fluke fisherman who knows his stuff.

Which brings me to this: how good will our fluke fishing be this spring and summer? Let's keep our fingers crossed and hope for the best. Perhaps we'll be pleasantly surprised—and perhaps not; but you may be sure there'll be some around for the catching. Certainly fluke fishing is on the upswing. So perhaps this year will be the year when fluke fishermen come into their own. Only time will tell.

But one thing is certain: we sinker bouncers welcome the month of May with open arms.

With all these fish on tap, or soon to be very shortly, which is first on the agenda? From my own experience (discounting the availability of flounder), I'd say it is a toss-up between ling and mackerel. Each is easy enough to catch, therefore, the choice is up to the individual fisherman. One hitch, though: while ling are available right now, the same cannot be said with assurance about mackerel. As this is being written in mid-April, it is quite possible that by the time you read this, mackerel will be flying over the rails—I have no way of knowing at this writing. But as mackerel are a "feast or famine" fish, it is also quite possible we fellows may have to wait a week or so. Exactly when mackerel move into our area depends much upon water temperature.

And while we're on the subject of mackerel, let me add this: don't rush the mackerel season! As long as I've been mackerel fishing, I can recall "rumors" of "vast schools of mackerel" making their way up the New Jersey Coast—weeks before they actually arrive off Long Island. From my own experience, though, I say forget it! I would certainly wait until the end of the first week of May—unless you personally know someone who has scored. The forerunners of these vast schools of mackerel are flighty to say the least. Here today, gone tomorrow. That is why I believe it best to wait until the fish have definitely settled in the area. What's the big rush, anyway? You've waited since last spring, a few more days won't hurt. But once those fish are here, get going! Good Long Island South Shore mackerel fishing lasts but two or three weeks—rarely longer. Check the reports in The Fisherman; they'll let you know in plenty of time to get out there and reap a bonanza.

As for ling fishing, you have all spring to take advantage of those bucket-filling catches. May is certainly a good ling-fishing month, especially during the latter half and into the month of June. May and the Ambrose Tower Grounds go hand in hand. During June, many ling are caught on the ocean wrecks, along with sea bass and porgies. And certainly the Cholera Bank "high-spots" can't be beat in early July.

Sea bass and porgies? You will have some chance of succeeding with the bass, but outside of the spawning run which enters the Peconics in May, porgies are rarely caught in large numbers before mid-June in the New York Bight areas. I know many years ago, mid-June began our sea porgy fishing on the Tin Can Grounds and Scallop Ridge. Before that, almost to the day, sea porgies were almost non-existent. (Commercial fishermen continue to take the first porgies in their traps—usually sometime in April—but we sport fishermen must wait our turn...and there's nothing much we can do about it.)

The first showing of sea bass usually occurs during the second week of May—give or take a day or two; but only sporadically and in small numbers. However, by the third week, sea bass will begin to take up housekeeping in full force on the local offshore wrecks. June, July, and August produce well, but from Shinnecock on out to Montauk, sea bass fishing sometimes reaches into late October and, if the weather cooperates, into the first week of November.

What about that most difficult of all bottom feeders to catch: the blackfish? Look for them in May around inlet jetties, rock piles, and other obstructed bottom when fishing inshore. For the offshore fisherman, any wreck, rock pile, fishing bank, rocky ledge, etc., will harbor these rough and tumble scrappers. While the average spring blackfish seldom outweighs those caught in fall, there are enough decent-sized fish around to make it worthwhile. (This is the best way I can put this. While I've always caught more blackfish in fall than spring, my largest ever, in the low teens, was caught on a piece of skimmer meant for sea bass while fishing off Sea Bright, New Jersey on Memorial Day, 1931. So you never know.)

As for fluke—this fishing has certainly had its ups and downs. These past few years have shown a slight improvement, but this depends a lot upon where the fishing was done during that time. Some fellows wrote and said they had very good fluke fishing in Moriches Bay; others wrote and said the fishing was dead in Shinnecock Bay. Those areas back west toward the Bight proper did show some good improvement last year. All I know is that it is a far cry from the fluke fishing of the early Seventies. In fact, those days fooled

me. I thought we were about ready for a return to fluke fishing of old. But after two good years, it went right back to the doldrums which started in the mid-Sixties. But those two years gave me some of the best fluke fishing in a good long time. I recall one May morning in 1973 catching nine fluke with nine consecutive casts while fishing Shinnecock Canal—all keepers. My records show I caught 97 fluke that week before hooking my first throwback. This is not to brag, but rather to show what man and Nature can accomplish when working together.

But I guess those two years were the summit of the unexpected good fluke supply, for after that the catches began again to dwindle and it wasn't long before we were right back to "catch as catch can," with only the veteran fluke fisherman doing well. But gradually there has been a noticeable fluke improvement these past few years by many fishermen. But you know what makes us fishermen tick—for us hope forever springs eternal. Maybe this will be the year of return.

I do know one thing, though (based on the past few years): if you want your best chance at fluke, you will find May one of the better months. This doesn't apply to the offshore fisherman, however; but for the fellows who fish South Shore bays and creeks, May often proves more productive than the rest of the season. I would say this good fishing extends into June as a rule, but after that, fewer and fewer fluke are caught. By mid-July, many of the bay fluke will be found around ocean inlet areas—creeks and close inshore areas evidently become too warm; certainly by August most of the fluke are taking up housekeeping in those inlet areas.

As for flounder in May, this is the month you'll find better fishing around those inlet areas just mentioned. The flatties are definitely on the move and by mid-month will almost certainly be congregated around inlets. This is also the time to put faith in blood or sandworms.

And if you're smart, you'll bring along an extra outfit when you fish those inlets for flounder. Flounder are leaving, and fluke are arriving, which means there is an excellent chance of snagging your first fluke of the year. Rig that extra outfit with a three foot leader, a 4/0 regular-shanked Sproat (style #3366), and either a two inch bottle green killie, or a strip of sea robin. I prefer the killie and if it is frisky, try fishing a dead line while you concentrate on those lively flounder.

Now, all this boils down to one thing—why I like May as one of the better fishing months. No other month holds such promise. It always seems to me that Nature is begging our forgiveness for all those rough winter days we went through; she wants us to know that all is well once again. Take her at her word. Get ready to do something about it.

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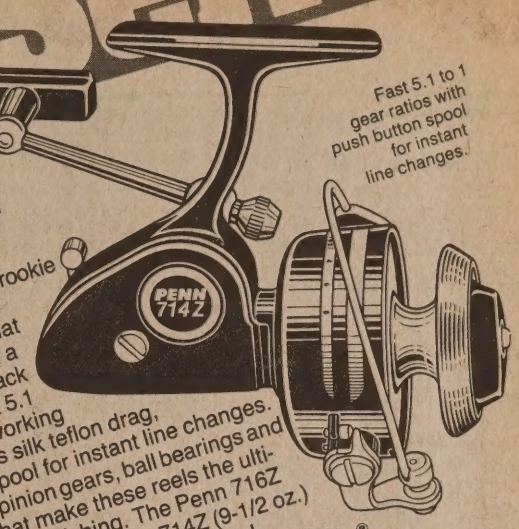

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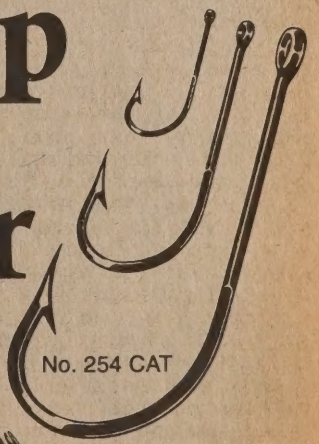

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THE SILENT OPENING

by Martin & Janet Garrell

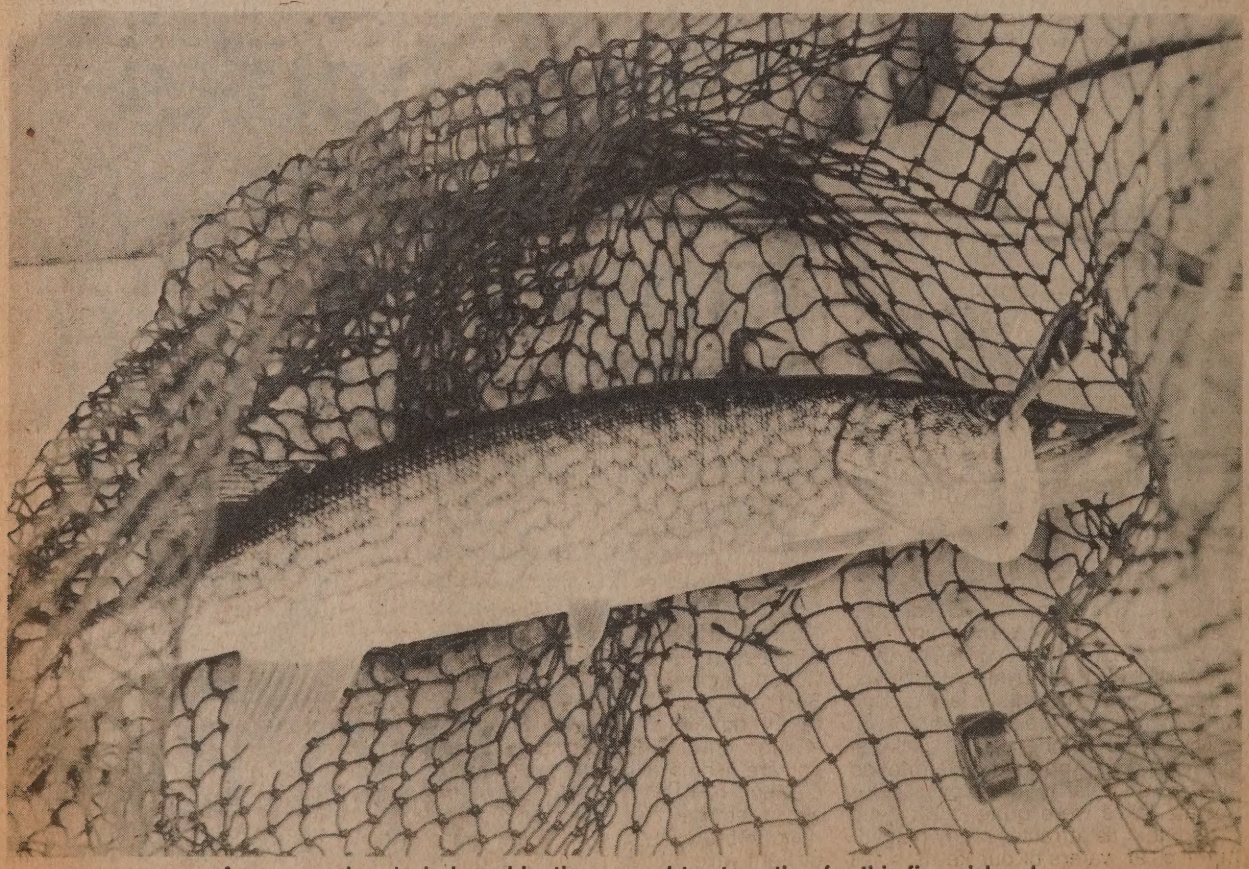
There's little hub-bub about this opening day but to a small group of freshwater fans, the toothesome pickerel provides all the fun you could ask.

For the freshwater fraternity on Long Island, May marks the true beginning of spring. Sure, there's been put-and-take trout fishing for the past month or two, much of it surprisingly good, and, yes, some of us have already sampled the clusters of white perch in the estuaries. But, on that first Saturday of May we can at last get back to fishing the lakes in earnest—when the pickerel season opens.

A.J. McClane, one of the greatest fishing writers of our time, spent part of his boyhood fishing around Babylon and seemed to admire that fish he called "The Wacky King of the Weed Empire." There's never been a better phrase to describe the unpredictable chain pickerel, **Esox niger**. No angler can ever be sure when chainsides will be sulking and when he's in a mood to slash at a lure. In the former case, little cousin Esox seems invulnerable, but, when he's hungry or angry, he'll come brazenly to boatside, stare you in the face, and chomp almost any lure or baitfish you offer, no matter how large or small.

Most local anglers catch their first couple of pickerel quite by accident, usually while bass fishing. After all, chainsides has an affinity for just about every bass lure except a plastic worm, and some anglers have even managed a pickerel or two that way. Most of the time the bass fisherman will draw a pickerel's attention and strike with a wobbler, say a small silver or gold finish Rebel or Rapala, and it doesn't take too long to notice that this hooked fish is clearly not a largemouth. Perhaps there's a long flash of gold as the pickerel turns with the lure crosswise in its duck bill. The initial surge just doesn't seem bass-like. Often, in fact, Esox heads right for the boat, maybe in an attempt to size up the situation. Then there will be a couple of strong, but short runs, and the long, lean fish will be in the net only a few minutes after those runs are parried, even though it may be a hefty adult of 20 inches of more.

A bass angler who is put off by the skinny pickerel's lack of slugging power, by its lack of aerial prowess (it seldom jumps), and by the slime that coats the pikes and makes handling them a bit dicey (you try to grip the smaller pikes across the back and just behind the gills. You'll injure the fish if you grasp it bowling ball fashion in the eyesockets, and you'll injure yourself if you clamp a thumb in its mouth. Pike teeth are sharp!), that fisherman will continue to catch only an occasional pickerel. The fisherman who finds something fascinating about the short spurts near the boat, something exciting about the typically savage strike and who finds the fish rather attractive in nature's chain markings—that fisherman might specialize a bit and catch his or her share of Long Island pickerel.

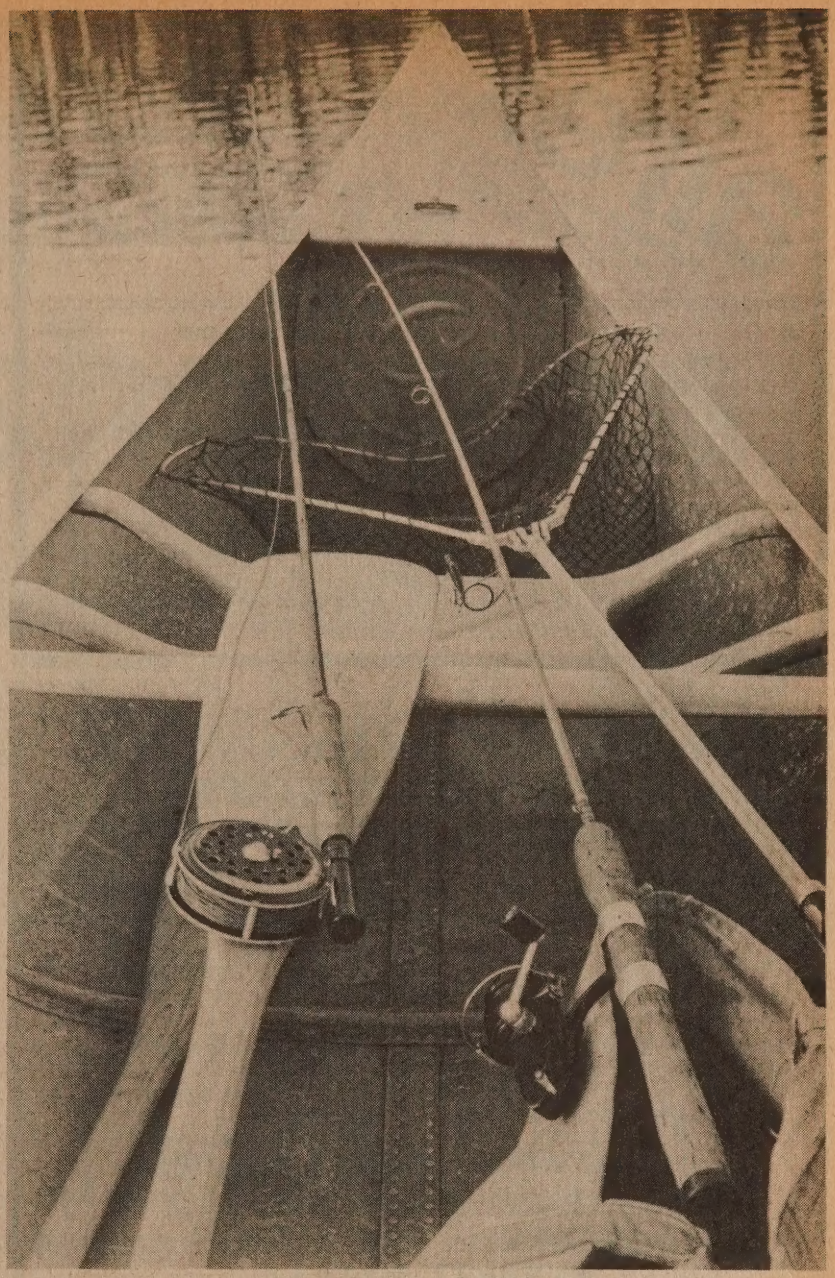


A spoon and pork rind combination proved too tempting for this fine pickerel.

We put ourselves in the latter category and outfit accordingly. First and foremost, tackle should be kept as light as possible to bring out what fighting ability chainsides does have. Unless the pond you fish is absolutely choked with vegetation and deadfalls, four pound spinning or six pound plugging tackle used with a light touch is perfectly adequate for any pickerel up to about 26 inches (roughly four pounds). Of course, specimens three feet long and weighing nine pounds have been recorded further south, but your chances of encountering such a 10-year-old behemoth are probably about as good as those of finding a 10 pound largemouth on the Island.

Light spinning or plugging gear works nicely with small wobbling spoons, spinners, and balsa or plastic plugs in 1/8 to 1/4 ounce sizes. Maybe we're biased from years of fishing upstate, but we still like to tip our spoons with two to five inch strips of white pork rind; in fact, we always include several sizes of Acetta or Reflecto type spoons (the latter in sizes 0 to 3) in our box because they carry pork rind so well on their single hooks. Physically built for shallow water forays, pickerel are seldom encountered below the surface layer of lakes, and a fish hooked below six feet is unusual. Thus pickerel specialists favor spoons with shallow bodies or plugs with positive or nearly neutral buoyancy, lures that provide a lot of side-to-side action on slow retrieves within a few feet of the surface. Although we have caught pickerel on small bucktail/spinner or revolving blade combinations, we've not found them quite so effective on pickerel as they are on northern pike and muskellunge. Also, though two of the biggest chain pickerel we've ever seen were taken on surface lures with propellers fore and aft, we don't generally fish on top for little Esox. Perhaps it's merely a matter of personal confidence or lack thereof; certainly such lures are recommended by folks who fish for large pickerel in other areas.

For a number of seasons our failure to catch Long Island pickerel on a fly rod stymied us. One of our mentors upstate had taught that a size 4 or 6 bucktail or streamer in a predominantly white, grey, or yellow pattern, e.g., Silver Ghost, Mickey Finn, Silver Doctor, Edson Dark Tiger, etc., preceded by a small 00 double or 0 single spinner blade in gold or silver and fished on a 7½ to 9 foot leader tapered to five or six pound test, was dynamite. Fishing those combinations on a couple of our favorite pickerel ponds out east got frequent follows, but nothing else. Finally last season we went back to the long wand, but removed the spinners. The pickerel liked the idea! Apparently we'd failed to take water clarity into account. Our upstate lakes were quite murky and the spinner as attractor really helped. In the clear waters of our kettle holes the flashing blades might have made the big flies seem somewhat unnatural. The retrieve is still the same, namely a couple of sharp twitches followed by pauses as the fly settles slowly and slack is taken up. Most often the fly is grabbed while it hangs there, and the strike is discernible via a slight sidewise movement of the line. Casts of 40 feet or more are the norm; flies are bulky; and a rod of 8 to 9½ feet in length with a WF-7 or -8 floating line is the logical choice. Sitting in a small boat or canoe, you might not notice the strike quickly enough on a Hi-D sinking line, and you are fishing fairly shallow anyway.



Ultralight spinning gear and a fly rod suitable for handling streamers are good choices for the serious pickerel fisherman.

Much has been written about the sharp teeth of the Esox clan and the need to buffer lines with heavy mono or light wire, but as far as **E. niger** is concerned, it's badly overdone. Chainsides' dentures won't go through light mono the way a northern pike's fangs or the wicked choppers of a muskellunge can. Moreover fishing clear water, you'll find that all pike are line and leader shy.

If the overall length of lure plus snap is more than about 3½ inches, a pickerel will never get above the rig and cut the line. Well, hardly ever! One big pickerel did slice a 9 cm Rapala off a four pound strand on us some four years ago this fall. Small streamers, slowly retrieved, hook most pikes in the very corners of their mandibles, almost as if the fish tried to sip the imitation minnows rather than engulf them. Still, even though it's never happened, it's easy to

(Continued on next page.)

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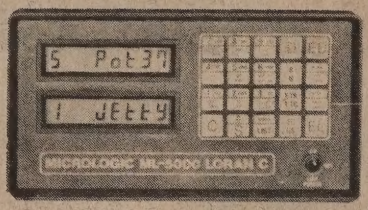

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imagine a big pickerel swallowing one of our streamers and chopping us off. Hence if those pike teeth get you nervous and the waters of your favorite pickerel lake are tannic or cloudy, don't hesitate to tie a few inches of 10 or 12 pound test mono to the tip of your fine main strand.

Even more than a bass fisherman, a pickerel fisherman learns to think in terms of broad bays and long edges of weeds. Also pickerel are not nearly as temperature sensitive as bass. Whether the water is 40 or 72 degrees, chainsides seldom travels into deep water far from the place where he ambushes his prey from the side. Thus, the practice of quietly bringing a boat or canoe into four to ten inches of water and fan-casting parallel to the shore line is a good one. Likewise drifting across a weedy cove and casting in all directions around the boat is another good idea. Anglers who fish spoons and plugs favor slow steady retrieves with occasional brief pauses. Erratic retrieves attract pickerel all right, but get a lot of missed strikes from overly eager fish.

Pike, muskies, and pickerel that cruise up to the boat right behind a lure and then drop back into the depths are quite catchable. Most of them hang around nearby with chips on their shoulder and their appetites whetted. After such a follow, pickerel sharpies catch their breath and try another cast, using a faster retrieve and cutting a figure 8 with the rod in the water when the lure is a few feet from the rod tip. If that fails or merely draws another follow, they switch lures and cover the water carefully in a series of 40 to 60 feet casts. Chances are awfully good that chainsides will smack the new lure before the fourth cast is completed.

Because pickerel control panfish and coarse fish on small lakes and because pickerel numbers are seldom great, it's not usually a good idea to hit a hot pickerel lake hard and to kill them regularly. Be gentle when handling and releasing them, for pike are not nearly as rugged as bass. Take a 20 incher on ultralight tackle and exhaust the fish, and you'll probably have to swim the pickerel back and forth for five minutes or so to revive it.

If you do take Esox home for the table, you've got a culinary treat in store, provided you don't mind working around the densely packed Y-bones that float through the backs of members of the pike family. For pickerel more than 16 inches long, the effort is worth it; so remove head, skin, entrails and fins. Then stuff the cavity with your favorite stuffing, drape a few bacon slices over the fish, cover with sour cream and seasonings, and bake in a greased pan in a 350° oven, basting with white wine, until the firm flesh flakes, roughly 45 minutes. Serve with a dry, chilled Sauvignon Blanc or a Chardonnay, and pick at the bones carefully. Pike meals are never very good for conversation, but they're delicious all the same!

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TRANSDUCERS, BUBBLES ...AND TROUBLES

by Ray Hendrickson

The key to a properly functioning recorder often lies with how you go about mounting your transducer.

Tiny bubbles in the wine may, as an old Hawaiian ballad claims, "Make you feel happy, make you feel fine"—but they raise the almighty dickens with depthsounder transducers. Whether mounted through-hull or on the transom, the transducer's face must be in unadulterated, intimate contact with that three-quarters of the earth's surface we're so fond of probing with hook and line.

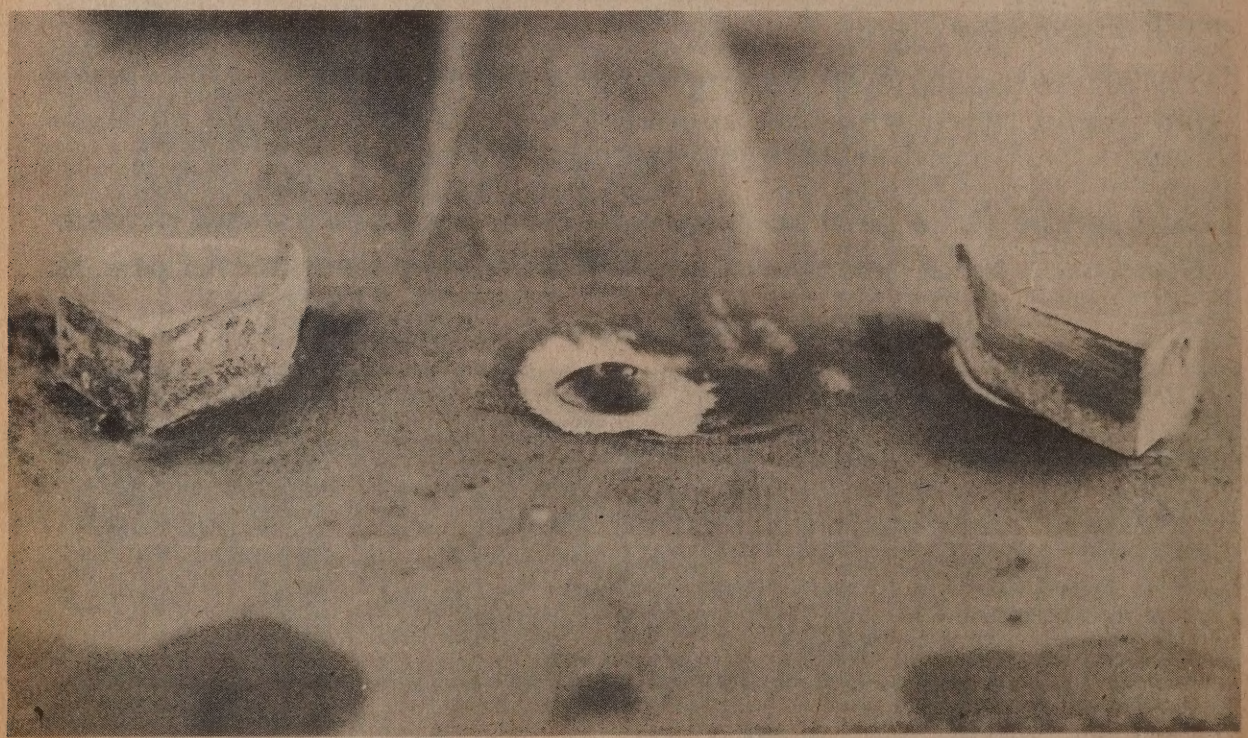
All sounding circuits operate on the common premise that sound travels approximately 4800 feet per second in water, give or take a few hundred feet according to salinity, temperature and degree of pollution. In air, sound travels about 1130 feet per second, and bubbles are made of air.

The problem caused by bubbles zipping beneath the transducer is not the change in velocity of sound waves passing through the bubbles. After all, how much effect on the overall time for transmission and rebound of a sound pulse can even a quarter inch diameter bubble have? The bubble problem is one of reflection and scattering. Rather than entering the water cold-turkey from the transducer, knowing exactly what's expected of it; a sound pulse that immediately meets a bubble, or passes through several before it gets even an inch into its journey, becomes disoriented.

Result? Part of the energy is immediately reflected to the transducer. A constant stream of bubbles causes such a melange of erroneous signals in the circuitry that all but the most sophisticated recorders go berserk—printing confused hash across the paper or lighting up a flasher like a Roman pinwheel. At the least, it's distracting. At its worst, any meaningful signal disappears in the welter.

Air bubbles plague some portion of every boat bottom traveling at speed. They tend to dissipate as they move from bow to stern, but are more tenacious in close proximity to strakes or any longitudinal edges. Hence, the optimum location for a sounding transducer is well aft and as far from chines, strakes and keels as hull configuration permits. Score one for a bit of scientific reasoning—but there's more to it than that.

Transducers should be installed on trailered boats while the boat is **on the trailer**, not on blocks or any alien support. The ideal bubble-free location may be directly over a roller, or conditions may prove to be more subtle, but equally disquieting. The



An array of transducers on a flat-bottom hull; digital to the left (new), chart recorder on the right (a bit messy, but at least the face is clean), and a Dytek temperature probe on centerline. The RTV sealant is evident on the two new installations. Mounted in the flat section of the hull (a Groverbuilt 26), there's scant need for fairing blocks to maintain the vertical, and bubbles pose no threat on this hull.

perfectly situated transducer may nestle clear of rollers when the hull is winched tight, but may have to battle a roller or two on the way off and on the trailer—rollers are favored to win.

Hull structure may also force deviation from the ideal, particularly if there's considerable foam-in-place flotation. Sometimes there's a deck beam or stringer set low in the bilge that precludes optimum mounting. Still, these are the parameters determining the location of through-hull transducers: the most bubble-free area commensurate with internal hull structure and trailer layout. Hopefully, the spot will be in the after third of the bottom about midway between chine and keel. Of course, for inboard craft the transducer must be forward of the prop.

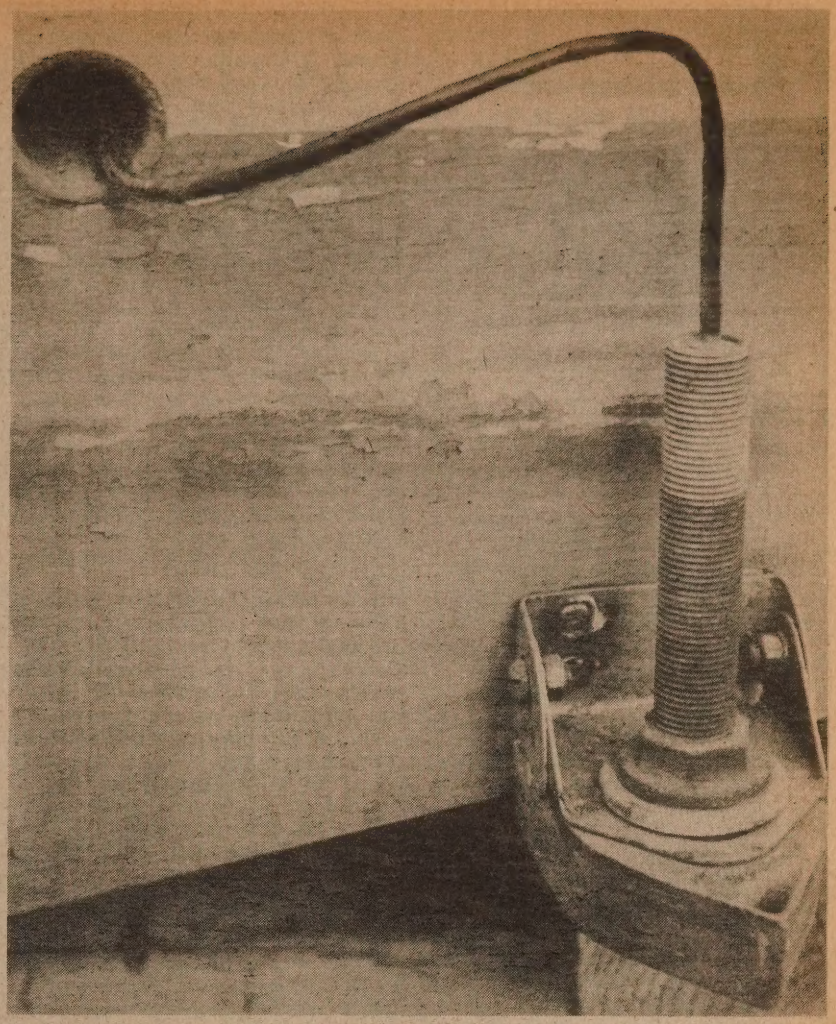
Constrained as our anti-bubble defenses may be, we do have one option that generally turns the tide: depth of the transducer's face below the hull. Most of the bubbles scoot aft close to the hull, in the laminar flow. Interpose a block of wood between the hull and the transducer (perhaps as little as one-half inch thick) and the transducer's face may forget what a bubble ever looked like. Actually, with any hull other than a flat bottom a fairing block is required to install the transducer vertically. This provides some separation from the potential bubble zone, and it's easily increased by using a thicker block.

Most instructions included with transducers give adequate direction for making the blocks, one outside the hull and the other in the bilge. Pick a chunk of wood a little thicker than the depth of outer block required, and—while it's still in rectangular form—slice it at the same angle the selected surface of the hull makes with the horizontal, starting the cut just below the top of the block. The inner block is the freebie cut off the top. Profiling the plan view (looking down) to match the transducer's shape is accomplished after slicing because it's easier to make the slice while the block's edges are straight. Not-so-incidentally, there's scant need to profile the inside block.

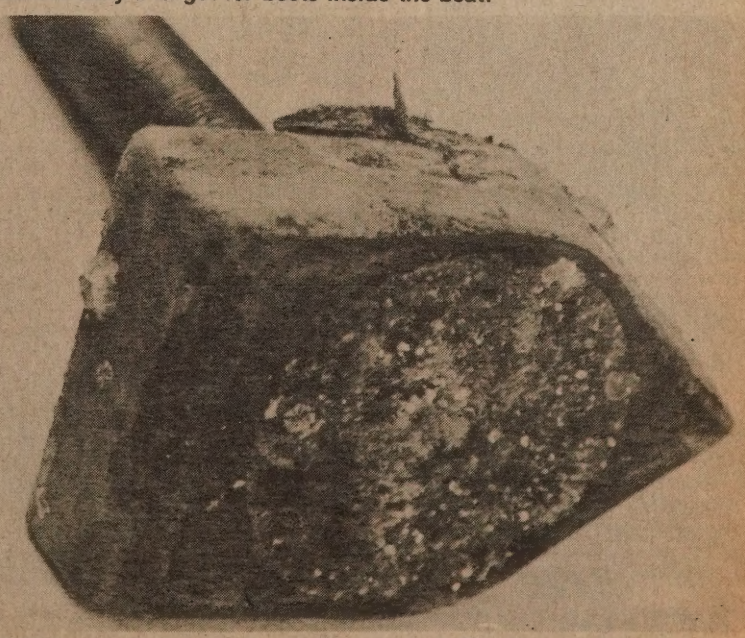
One other locational parameter that should be kept in mind by skippers of deep-keeled hulls: be sure the conical sound transmission angle (seldom more than 20 degrees) is unobstructed by the keel. It's seldom an issue, but worth noting. With the hole bored **vertically** through the hull, bed the transducer and blocks in silicone compound and snug up the nut, maintaining the fore and aft alignment of the transducer body. I don't recommend using a compound with exceptional adhesive properties because you may have to remove the unit someday. RTV is better suited to the purpose than high-bond adhesives.

But I do recommend thoroughly sealing the hole if it passes through cored construction, particularly balsa core. Ideally, make a liner bushing

(Continued on next page.)



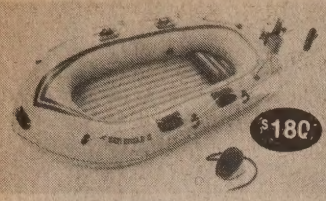
Here's another way through the transom—but hardly recommended. The cable is unsupported, the drain hole incapable of being plugged (unless it's gunked on the inside, which would be a no-no), and the cable is undoubtedly a target for boots inside the boat.



Bubbles are bad enough...but barnacles? The face of this transducer (the round plastic circle in the bronze housing) is incapable of transmitting full power, or of providing good reception of the echo.

SEA EAGLE

THE BOATS THAT HAVE IT ALL ...



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from a section of old rod butt or copper tubing and epoxy it into a properly outsized hole. At the very least, liberally coat the cored hole with epoxy and let it cure before installing the unit.

If you're considering mounting the transducer inside the hull and "shooting" through the bottom—you're on your own. So much depends upon hull density immediately beneath the transducer, and the sound transmitting properties of the bonding agent that you'll only know how good it is after you do it. Some skippers have had outstanding success, while others have never found a decent spot. Some have done it and may never realize that they aren't getting optimum performance. If you try it, use the softest silicone that a knowledgeable dealer recommends. That way it won't be next to impossible to cut it loose if you're disappointed.

Transom mounts are fairly straightforward, but deserving of a few comments. Stay as far outboard of the kicker's prop as possible without locating too close to the chine. About two thirds of the way outboard is the norm. Mount the transducer with its shaft vertical and with its face fully below the hull. I'd say that the inboard edge of the face should be at least 3/16s of an inch below the hull. If bubbles create hashy readings, try lowering the unit.

A problem frequently encountered with transom mounts is a roostertail of water spurting upward between the transducer and the transom at high speed. I cured this on my 14 foot tin boat by molding a fairing ahead of the transducer, sealing the gap between it and the transom. Plumber's epoxy putty (it comes in two sticks that are cut and kneaded together) is a good molding material as is Smooth-On's Metalset A4. Initially, try fairing the putty from hull bottom to the transducer face, creating a streamlined fairing. Should this lead bubbles across the face, cut the depth down a bit at a time until the bubbles are averted to the side. You won't be able to track the bubbles in the water, but you'll see the results on the flasher or paper.

I know it's easy to run the cable from a transom mount up and over the top, but it invites trouble. Exposed, and over a relatively sharp edge, it's too vulnerable. You'll know just how vulnerable after pricing a replacement. Better to bring it through a hole a few inches above the waterline and seal it with RTV or one of the receptacles and grommets used for radio antenna cables.

Once the cable is inside the boat is when the fun starts—if you care to call what is frequently the toughest part of an installation "fun." Although there's scant problems with open skiffs, boats with integral decks, cockpit liners and such, can make you wonder. If the builder did his homework there should be some sort of conduit already installed with the transducer installation in mind. If not, you'll have to seek your own way.

Sometimes the easiest method is to use a wire that's already in place as a snake. If you find a wire going your way—and it feels free from both ends, not clamped some place out of sight—disconnect the end near the transducer and securely tape it to the connector on the cable. Feather the juncture, forming a taper with the tape to avoid hang-ups. Snaking would be considerably simpler if the cable didn't already have the connector in place, but most units come preassembled. Of course, if you have the expertise to remove the connector and put it back on without damage, do so it if makes snaking easier.

One of the most important tips you'll ever receive about messin' round in boats: when you make that tape connection include a length of stout nylon cord in the joint and pull it through with the cable. Leave plenty of slack and **tie it off** at both ends. You'll then have a built-in snake for the next wire that might need to be run through the same course. Matter of fact, you'll need it to pull the wire you used for the snake back into place. But when you do so, tape in another piece of cord for future use.

When there's nothing useful that's already in place, you can try pushing the transducer cable through by itself. With the connector on the end, it probably won't work, but it's worth a shot for openers. Having failed (I hope not, but we'd better prepare for the eventuality), try a length of stiff wire for a snake, or get the real thing: an electrician's snake. I've had a modicum of success at times by using a length of #12 or #15 solid leader wire with the leading end bent back on itself to form an open loop. Not only does the bend produce a smooth end less likely to snag along the way, it's also something that can be snared by a similar piece of leader wire working from the other end. A typical situation is when the snake bottoms in some compartment and can't be made turn a necessary corner by pushing on it, nor can you reach it with pliers or hands. Even if you can't see it, you can generally snag it with the second "hook."

Whatever and however—any time you do a snaking job, run in that extra length of cord!

Generally, unless it's a grandiose sportfisherman, the cable will be much longer than required. Coil the excess neatly and secure with cord or a couple of nylon wire ties. It can be located any place, behind the console or in the bilge, for the cable is impervious to water. It's also a good idea, and the mark of commendable workmanship, to dress the cable; clamping it as required to take out the slop and control flexture, particularly near the ends. The salient spot for a cable clamp is close to where the cable exits the transducer shaft—just in case someone inadvertently yanks on the cable at the wrong time—and that's any time.

FISH NEWS & EVENTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

A 16 ½ LB. RAINBOW TROUT CAUGHT IN THE SALMON RIVER BY FLY FISHERMAN FRANCIS J. VERDOLIVA, JR. OF OSWEGO, N.Y. IS A NEW WORLD RECORD FOR THE 2 LB. TIPPIT CLASS.

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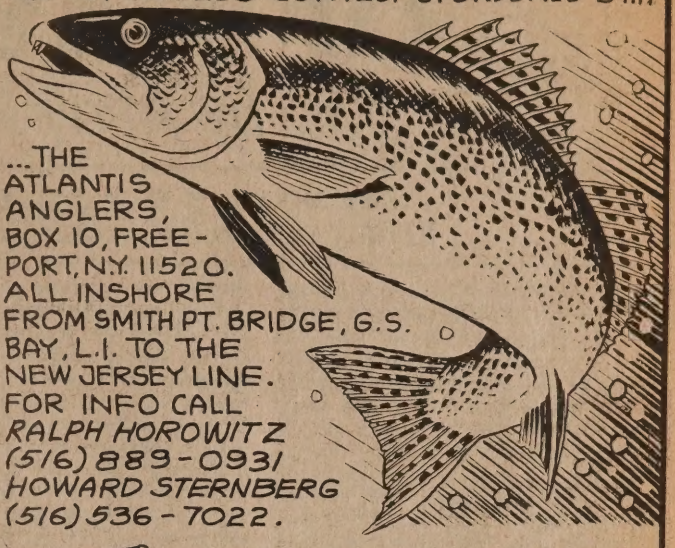

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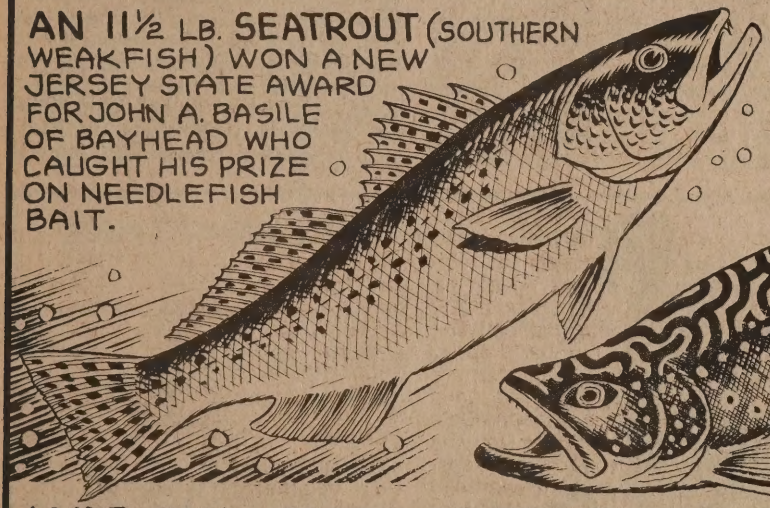
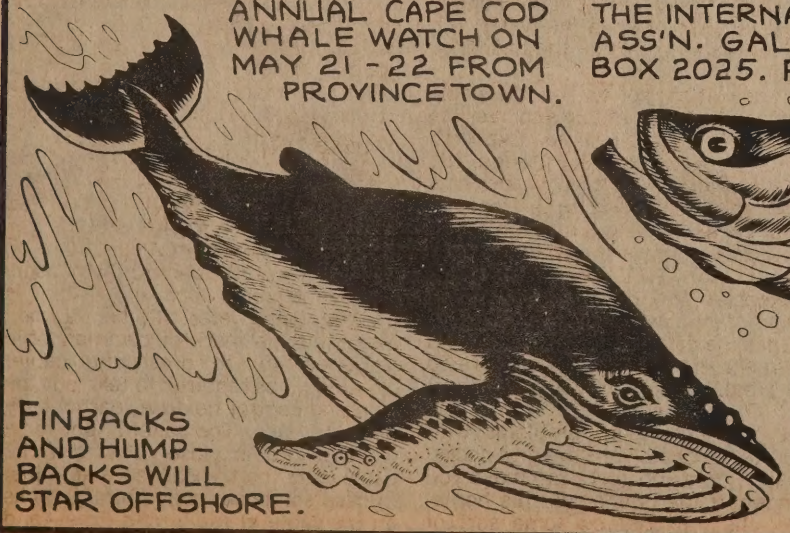
AN 11½ LB. SEATROUT (SOUTHERN WEAKFISH) WON A NEW JERSEY STATE AWARD FOR JOHN A. BASILE OF BAYHEAD WHO CAUGHT HIS PRIZE ON NEEDLEFISH BAIT.



A 2 LB. 4 OZ. BROOK TROUT WON A CONNECTICUT STATE AWARD FOR MICHAEL KOVACS FISHING...

...NEAR STAMFORD AND USING A MEPPS AGLIA LURE.

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY MEMBERS WILL HOLD THEIR ANNUAL CAPE COD WHALE WATCH ON MAY 21-22 FROM PROVINCETOWN.



FINBACKS AND HUMPBACKS WILL STAR OFFSHORE.

TARPON TOURNAMENT MAY 24-27 AT ISLAMORADA, FLA. SPONSORED BY THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FISHING ASS'N. GALS CAN CONTACT I.W.F.A. BOX 2025. PALM BEACH, FL. 33480

BEST FISHING DAYS FOR MAY WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN NEW AND FULL ARE MAY 12-26

THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY-HEM

by Andy Regina

May signals a new phase of the season as a variety of popular species enter the local scene.

May is one of the nicest months of the year, signaling the advent of summer with its beautiful weather and the start of a wide-open fishing season, whereby more than one species of fish will be available to us at the same time. For the first month or so we content ourselves with winter flounder because that's the only game in town; but May sees blackfish, striped bass and mackerel come on the scene, as well as other fish too numerous or inconsequential to mention. Now we have a choice, but choosin' ain't always easy, especially between three equally popular species, each sought for its own individual merits. The bass have a magic appeal that lures many of us down a path that has no turning, and we follow them till winter's snow and cold weather physically prevents us from doing so. Even at that die-hards can and do fish for stripers throughout the winter, haunting man-made warm water effluences such as those created by the cooling processes of power plants. Areas such as those in the vicinity of the Lilco plant in Northport maintain water temperatures warm enough to support bait, and where you get bait, you get stripers. It's as simple as that.

Blackfish draw a lot of pressure off the poor, over-fished and under-appreciated flounder; with large fish available that not only put up a helluva scrap but make darned good eating as well, you can't blame guys for switching over. The last, but certainly not the least reason, by any means, for us to desert the flatties is the annual invasion of those pelagic roamers, the mackerel. The list of reasons in this fish's favor is almost endless. Sought as bait for other species as well as prime table fare, the macks provide fast, hectic top-water sport that's about as close to sport fishing as many of us get. The fact that they can be found and caught in vast numbers most of the time makes them highly sought both commercially and otherwise, and most sport fishermen insist on counting catches in sacksfuls rather than numbers. Macks make good bait and chum, so many fishermen freeze a sack or two for use later on, for inshore work on bass, blues and weakfish or offshore duty on sharks, etc. Fish cleaned for the table are frozen too, but they really don't hold up too long frozen and should actually be eaten fresh for best taste. Parts culled during cleaning are generally ground into chum and put into empty milk cartons before freezing, making ideal, ready-to-use blocks that are easily transported and that fit nicely into chum pots. As baits, chunks or fillets get lots of use for blues, bass, weaks and sharks, as well as many other species too numerous to list.

The Atlantic mackerel (**Scomber scombrus**) is a beautiful fish, sleek and streamlined like the rest of its pelagic family, the tunas. Pelagic means freely roaming the open ocean, and that's what these babies do, only venturing inshore in the spring when the combination of warming waters and the urge to spawn coincide, or in the fall as they work their way back offshore again. It has a torpedo-shaped body, usually an irridescent green on top with dark, jagged striped zigzagging across its back and into the silver sides, like streaks of lightning. A sickle tail is the giveaway that tells you the mack is a fast swimmer, that and those finlets running down its back from the dorsal to the tail, and again on the underside, same thing, different place. One thing that is unseen that is also the mark of a fast swimmer is the absence of an air bladder, used by most fish to provide buoyancy and allowing them to rest at float. Macks lack this air

Action builds to a crescendo as mackerel fly over the rails.

bladder and, therefore, cannot rest; with them it is literally sink or swim.

Wintering offshore and ranging anywhere from Labrador to North Carolina, the mackerel moves in vast migrations prompted by three major factors: food, water temperature and that old, irrestible spawning urge. When these factors coincide, the fish migrate en masse, in schools as far as the eye can see at times, usually working their way inshore in Carolina and then leisurely progressing northward as water temps increase, dallying along the way a bit until they reach the top of their range—Labrador. In the fall, the process is reversed as the macks head south, away from the cooling water, then out to the deep places once inshore southern waters get too cool for their comfort.

We intercept the mackerel twice each year, once on the trek north in spring, then again in the fall or early winter, as they reverse their migratory pattern. The fall run is never as great as the spring, either in fish or in the amount of fishermen seeking them. Why, I'll never know, because the fish are most certainly available the second time around, if not in the same mind-boggling numbers as earlier, at least in amounts vast enough to sustain another concentrated fishery. Part or most of the reason might lie in a phrase I just used: "the second time around." Perhaps most anglers have had their fill of macks for the year, with the sack(s) taken in springtime. How many mackerel can you possibly use? Even if you set aside plenty as bait and chum, you can be over-glutted; freezers do have load capacities and there is a limit to what you can save. Appetites become jaded—a guy can even get tired of eating steak if he eats it too often. And other fall species take some of the clout out of mackerel punches too. if you have a choice between blackfish, stripers, cod, blues, etc., at your disposal, would you opt for mackerel?

So, with basically one shot at them, we take advantage of macks when they appear in early May, have a ball with them as we load up, then fish for other fish the rest of the season after that. They respond excellently to chum and are readily caught on rigs consisting of a diamond jig preceded by one or several tube lures (called a mackerel tree or mackerel rig). The technique is simple to master and is highly efficient. It is not difficult to catch a sackful under these circumstances, which again is perhaps the prime mover making this the most popular game in town at that time.

Not very large fish by any stretch of the imagination, our macks average from one to two pounds apiece, with some biggies going up to three pounds at times and a four-pounder always turning up somewhere during the run. What they lack in size, they more than make up for not only in numbers, but in sheer aggressiveness, and guys with full trees (a mack on the jig and one on each teaser tube, at the same time) have their hands full, believe me! Mostly caught in deeper waters located too far offshore to permit fishing from land to be a factor, these little rascals can and do invade the beach often enough to create havoc. A couple of years ago, waiting for someone to meet me at the public launching ramp in Huntington, I watched local youngsters catch mackerel right in front of my eyes, on the floating dock of the launch site. And awhile back, when my guys were kids, we spent a lot of time at Montauk each year. Once, on the town dock for snappers, a school of macks came in and raised hell with the snapper baits and tiny lures being used. I'll never forget the look on my guys' faces as twin mackerel threatened to swim away with the new spinning outfits I had recently bought for them.

Once spawning is achieved inshore, the macks go on a feeding spree, glutting themselves on the overabundant small bait that the Sound lavishly supplies. Stuff like sand eels and spearing, shrimp, squid, all types of marine worms and mollusks, and the small fry of almost any species makes up the varied diet of the macks, but I think it is the sand eels more than anything else that keeps 'em happy longest. At one time we actually fished for macks with bait, using rigs similar to our present whiting rig, with several hooks spaced out at equal distances above a sinker, running up the line for about two or three feet. Hooks were baited with pennant-like, small strips of squid or small chunks of fish, including mackerel, or even bits of shrimp, and we'd fish at prescribed depths, as mandated by the skipper—so many hands down, according to his decision. Stripping the required amount of line from the reel, we'd lower the rig down as far as it would go, then slowly jig the whole thing up and down, much like we jigged diamond jigs when they later came into use. When party boat skippers learned to use chum to attract and hold huge schools of mackerel close to the boat, we stopped using bait altogether and switched to diamond jigs exclusively; till now it is the only rig seriously considered by one and all. Simple to construct (see illustration), they are also readily available from any bait shop or party boat in our area. To make a good rig, tie one end of a four foot length of 30 pound test leader to a black snap, using the improved clinch knot to do so. Tie the other end of the leader to a black swivel (Sampo ball bearing swivels are best), via the same knot. Once snap and swivel are securely fastened to opposite ends o the leader, space three dropper loops in the leader at equal distances from each other. Once completed, the rig

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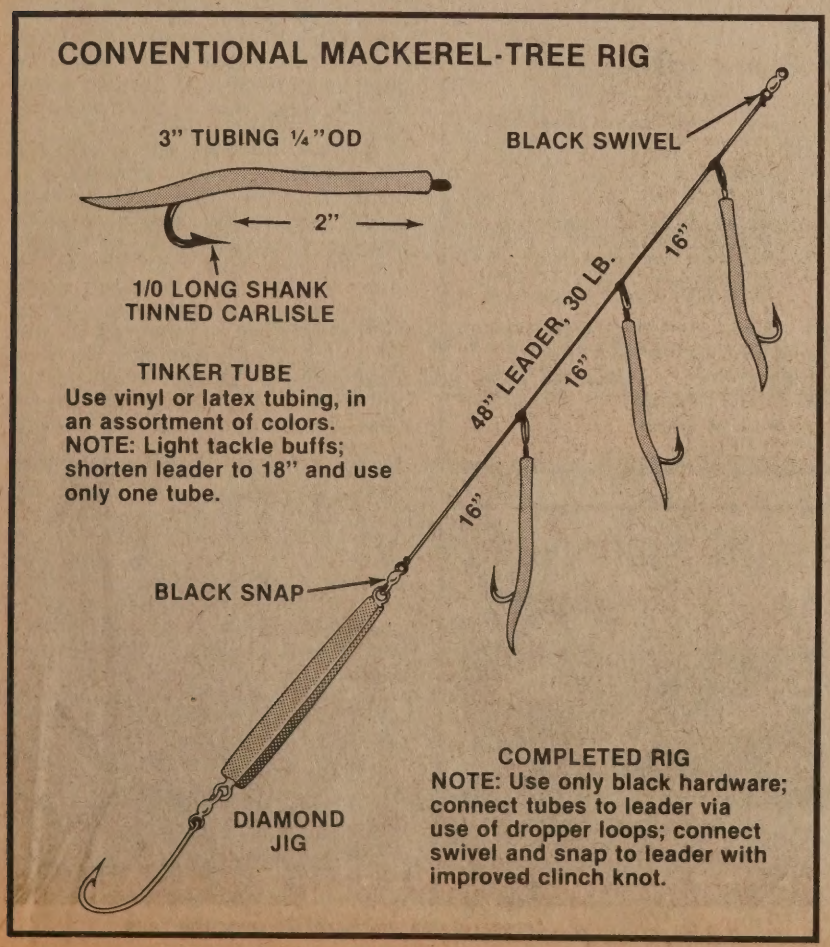
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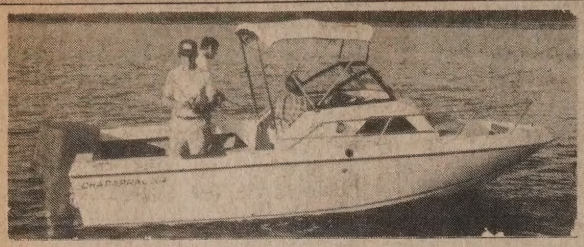
2"
1/0 LONG SHANK TINNED CARLISLE
TINKER TUBE
Use vinyl or latex tubing, in an assortment of colors.
NOTE: Light tackle buffs; shorten leader to 18" and use only one tube.
BLACK SWIVEL
16"
48" LEADER, 30 LB.
16"
16"
BLACK SNAP
DIAMOND JIG
COMPLETED RIG
NOTE: Use only black hardware; connect tubes to leader via use of dropper loops; connect swivel and snap to leader with improved clinch knot.

Chaparral
THE POSSIBLE DREAM
MERCURY OUTBOARDS



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should be slightly longer than three feet, with each dropper about 10 inches apart; this spacing allows hooked fish to have enough room to avoid tangles with other hooks. Place teasers on droppers and your jig in the snap, securely locking that snap afterwards, and you have a working rig, ready to use. To make teasers, simply slip a section of plastic or latex tubing (insulation covering, called "spaghetti") over a 1/0 or 2/0 long-shanked hook (preferably a Pacific bass hook), and connect that hook to a dropper.

Fish are located electronically, showing up as black brush marks on the charts of graph recorders or blinking indicators on flasher types, at times lighting the dial like you just committed a "tilt" on a pinball machine. Recorders not only indicate fish and sizes of the schools, but can differentiate between bait and predator (or, the captain can) while pinpointing exact depths of feeding levels. No more guesswork on our part, fellows, just stop where indicated and lower your rig to the depth shown and you're in like Flynn! We cast out a bit, slightly away from the boat, so that our rig will swing through the school of macks on the downswing, so to speak, and most of the time we have fish on before we even attempt to start jigging. Once one fish is hooked, let it swim around down there a bit, flashing the jig or the other teasers through the rest of the highly-competitive school. This will usually result in other mackerel striking the empty lures, and it is often very possible to load up a full tree this way, meaning a fish on every hook, the jig plus every teaser.

Because the mackerel is a small fish, heavy tackle is not necessary, but because you often come up with double, triple, and even quadruple-headers, it is wiser to go with intermediate gear, stuff light enough to make you appreciate these little scrappers but also heavy enough to control a bunch of them on at the same time. On a private boat we have a ball with light and ultra-light tackle and lines in the four or six pound class, but we do not use any teasers or, at the most, one—otherwise the line would probably be breaking continuously. Aboard party boats, we make the best of two worlds, so to speak, using conventional tackle that would still be classified as light. We combine a six foot Childre Graphite rod with a Shimano Bantam 200 bait-casting reel filled with new, super-soft Ande ten pound test line, restrict ourselves to one teaser if we use any at all, and have a ball, ending up with all the fish we could ever want anyway, even without the heavy tackle and multiple teaser rigs others use.

Fishing is supposed to be fun, and that's the name of that tune as far as we're concerned. So, why don't you join us? Why not get in on all the fun awaiting you on Long Island Sound during the merry month of Mayhem!

THE Fisherman BUMPER STICKER CONTEST

WEEKLY PRIZE: $25.00 In Cash Plus An Open Boat Trip For Two.

GRAND PRIZE: $250.00 Shopping Spree And A New Rod & Reel Outfit

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Everyone Is Eligible—All you have to do is stop by any tackle shop, marina or fishing station currently advertising in *The Fisherman* and pick up your *FREE Fisherman Bumper Sticker.* If your license plate number matches the number appearing in each week's issue you're a winner.

Weekly prize winners will receive a *trip for two* aboard any of the open boats participating in the contest plus an added bonus of *$25.00* to cover your day's expenses.

And, that's not all! At season's end, each of our weekly winners becomes eligible for our *Grand Prize Drawing.* One lucky angler will be the recipient of a *$250.00 Shopping Spree* at any tackle shop regularly advertising in The Fisherman. He or she will also get to choose one of three specially selected fishing outfits designed to meet the needs of the most demanding angler.

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CHOOSING SW

by Lou Truppi

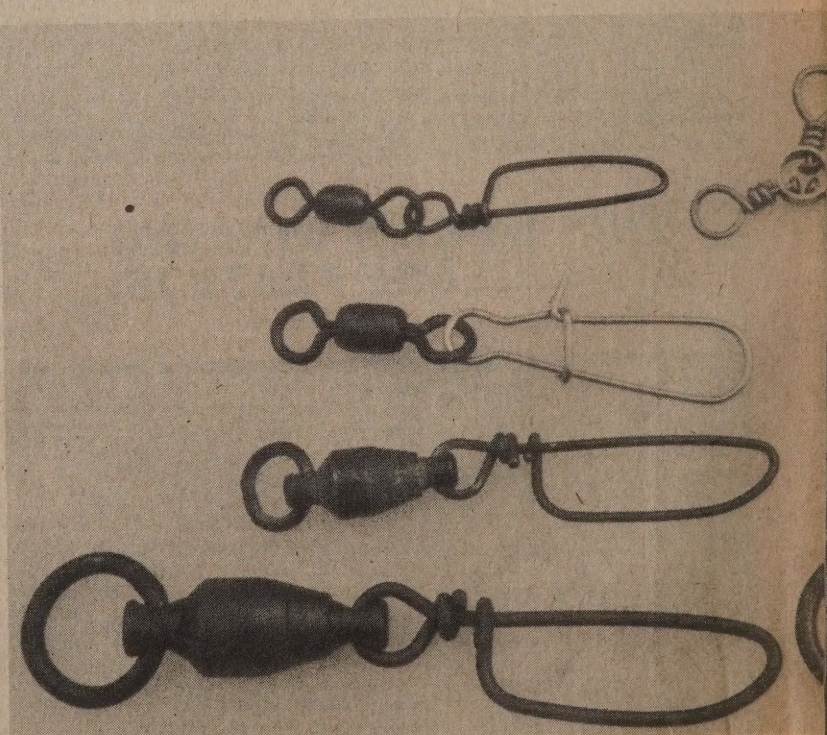
Many fish are lost each season due to swivel failure. Sportsmen invest good money in rods, reels and line, but scrimp on a very important ingredient: the swivel.

There are numerous styles of swivels available to fishermen—many excellent, some passable, others completely useless.

If you're a light tackle fisherman, then you use would demand a significantly different swivel than a big game angler might require. Different in break strength only, many times styles might be the same. A swivel style that has proven its worth on light or heavy tackle is certainly a suitable choice for all angling. Swivels such as barrel, snap, and three-way are common choices for most angling encounters anywhere.

Many bottom rigs are based on the use of three-way swivels to blend the sinker and hook into a sound holding pattern. The three-way swivel can be utilized in a variety of fishing situations—bottom rigs, hi-lo rigs, fluke rigs and various freshwater rigs to name a few. Suitable swivels are manufactured out of brass and possess close tolerances and pinned arms. Painted styles will rust and corrode in short order. So purchase the better quality to ensure long life and strength.

Barrel swivels are used in a variety of ways—some to prevent line twist in wire leaders and lures. Oftentimes, barrel swivels are used in conjunction with bottom rigs to prevent hoos from sliding through sinkers, etc. May umbrella rig tubes feature barrel swivels to impart action to the lure. They can be used to mark and connect wire line and to form a sound connection to backing. A barrel swivel can foster a multitude of uses; just be sure you purchase the best quality. Unlike other swivel styles that visual observance can pronounce good or bad, the barrel's weakest points are hidden in the swivel's body. Cheaply designed barrels can cost you fish when you least expect it. Another point to consider is to get used to using the smallest swivel that will do the job. You'll also discover that the quality swivels are much stronger for their size than inferior makes. The swivels' qualities can be readily detected by the style of manufacture.

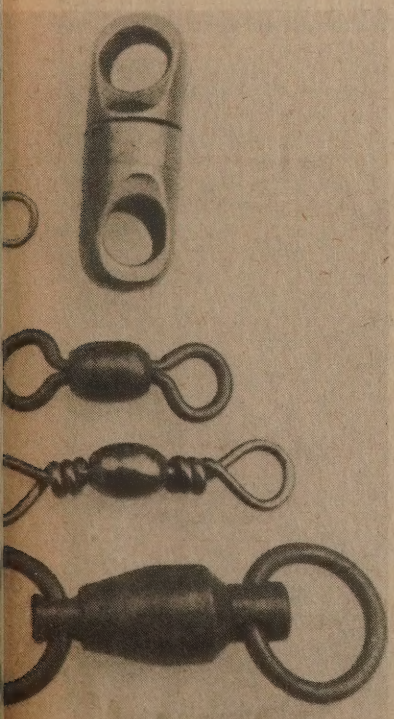


(Left to Right): Top row—Coastlock style snap swivel; three way swiv row—Coastlock snap swivel with bent wire snap to lock in position; solic bearing snap swivel; twisted wire barrel swivel. Fourth row—Heavy duty ring; ball bearing barrel swivel with brazed rings.

IVELS

he twisted wire style is markedly veaker than comparably sized solid ody swivels. Barrel swivels are also vailable in high quality ball bearing. he ball bearings allow for a smooth rag free spinning quality that really etards line twist.

Snap swivels are the most common o most anglers. These swivels rovide the backbone of connections or most angling situations. Suitable naps and swivels are available in a ariety of styles. The most famous are he safety pin and coastlock snap. The afety pin style is suited to light tackle se. These are prone to easy failure vhen confronted with big fish. This wivel's weakest link is the snap. ince the snap is merely bent like a airpin and does not lock to a keeper vire, it can easily be pulled out under eavy pressure. This type of snap wivel is usually of the wrapped wire ariety barrel connected to the snap vhich derives its name from its shape losely resembling an ordinary safety in and locking in much the same nanner. This type of swivel is never ecommended for offshore use. Tough ighting game fish such as tuna, narlin, etc., can bring out the worst



g game barrel swivel. Second barrel swivel. Third row—Ball earing snap swivel with brazed

in this style of swivel.

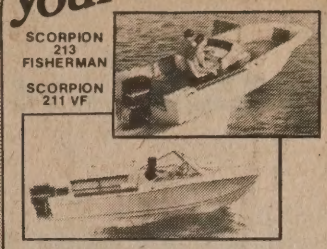
The next style is the coastlock snap and swivel. This style can feature a wire twisted barrel swivel or the more reliable solid version married to a coastlock style snap. This snap is a reliable connector. The wire snap design lends itself to superior holding power. Unlike the safety pin design, the coastlock snap locks closed. Both the head of the snap and its lower portion are locked in place with a strand of wire that is bent to a right angle to prevent the snap from opening under pressure. The factor that really governs this snap's strength is the thickness of wire that it's manufactured from. The coastlock swivel is an excellent choice for all types of fishing except big game. This coastlock design is modified to sustain even heavier fish. This stronger design utilizes a double twist of wire to be wrapped snugly around the closing end of the snap. This features a bow-shaped snap thus preventing this tightly wrapped wire from opening or sliding permitting the snap to pull out; thus the snap swivel will permit the landing of large fish without fear of the swivel opening.

There are a couple of alternate designs, one rather new, the other has been around awhile. The first one is the McMahon style snap. This snap's design incorporates a push together snap. Like the standard snaps, this one must be pinched to open. Once your line is positioned at the snap, you can release the pressure thus hooking the line safely inside the snap. This dual end snap allows both movable ends to add double the strength of a single wire style snap. One drawback to this is that the snap lends itself to weakening faster than the coastlock style. Since this snap must be pinched to open, it may, under heavy pressure, bend open. My personal experiences with this snap on big fish has left me with a negative attitude toward its use and strength.

The new kid on the block is Berkley Tackle Company's Cross-Lok snap. I've used this snap this past season and found it totally acceptable. Cross-Lok's unique wire over wire lock lets the angler use this swivel with great confidence. The snap features a dual locking system that overlaps one another. Even under extreme pressure, the snap's locking mechanism cannot pull out due to the fact that they are positioned against one another. This looks like a sound innovation and so far, I've found them to be entirely successful on small to mid-size gamesters. Giant tuna might prove me wrong, but I would not recommend using a snap on any powerful fish when you can get along without one. The snap has proven to be the weak link in many a swivel failure case.

So choose your swivels carefully as you would your rod and reel. They, at times, can prove to be the weakest link between you and a trophy size fish. In this instance you really get what you pay for!!

Capture your dream...



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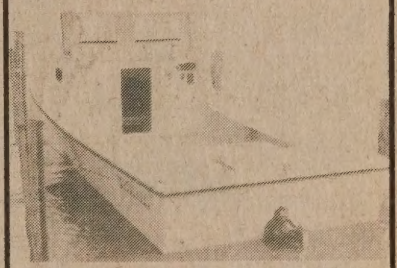

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—SHAD—

The Poor Man's Tarpon

by Larry Ross

The upper Delaware River is famous for its spring run of shad and it's getting underway now!

The shadbush at the firehouse in Barryville, New York, on the Delaware River, generally blooms in late April. This is a signal to residents of the area that the American shad has come upriver past the hamlet's rapids. Soon there are scores of townspeople lining the river banks. The tradition dates back to the time when the Lenni Lenape Indians awaited the arrival of the shad. The favorite spawning grounds are just north of the Barryville rapids, to more than 60 miles upriver. In the past, they have been caught as far north as Deposit, New York. The Delaware is very high and cold in late April and early May due to heavy spring rains and snow. This may delay the shad's arrival. The run usually starts in late April and continues until the second week in June, with the prime action occurring in May.

Last year, according to a report released by Art Lupine, Carl Weilandics and Richard Reichard of the Delaware River Fisheries Research Project, the 1982 shad run was estimated at 509,102 fish—give or take 176,000. This stands as the second highest run on record since the surveys started in 1975. Based on netting results at Lambertville, New Jersey, 59 out of every 100 shad ascending the river were "bucks," or males. They ranged in age from three to nine years, with the males predominantly in the five-year class, and the females in the six year class.

Since shad are not susceptible to baits during their spawning run, the red and white "dart" has become the classic lure in late April and early May when the run begins. Red and yellow is the second choice of most regulars. Later into the run, the more exotic colors seem to produce better with green/chartreuse colored darts known as "greenies" being favored. Last year, "greenies" were the "hot" lure. Kurt Hagemann, a local bait and tackle dealer in Shohola describes the preferred method of attack: "I recommend a half ounce dart when the river is high. Fill up your reel with eight pound test, or six at the least. Later in the season you can drop to a normal one-third ounce dart, and as low as a quarter ounce when the water level of the river drops. Then you can also use line light as four pound test. Your dart should be cast into a deep eddy off the tail end of the current. The recommended manner of addressing the shad is to cast out, slightly upstream, and let the dart drift downstream, reeling just fast enough not to get stuck on the river bottom. If you get stuck frequently, reel faster. If you don't, you're probably reeling too fast. Bruce Frazier, a local ardent anglers and general sportsman states

A pair of local anglers accounted for these fine shad.

flatly, "On four or six pound test line, you have your hands full. I've fished for blues, weaks, and striped bass, and pound for pound, the shad will hold its own."

You can launch your boat at Knight's Eddy access on Route 97, at the Lackawaxen state access on the Pennsylvania side of the river and from the shore at the Lackawaxen Eddy on Route 97, and at Rose's Eddy, half a mile north of Barryville on Route 97. Also, the canoe liveries which dot the river, such as Whitewater Canoe, Cedar Rapids, Kittatinny in Barryville, or Bob Lander's in Skinner's Falls, will let you launch for a minimal charge of $2 or so. The Upper Delaware River and the Delaware Valley was designated a National Park by the President and Congress in 1978 and is under the management of the National Park Service. Park Rangers will be happy to direct you to the hotspots on the river.

During the shad run, feeder streams in to the Delaware are heavily stocked with brook, brown and rainbow trout. The lower part of the Lackawaxen River has been the site of enormous stockings by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, with 35,000 trout slated to be released this spring. Where the Lackawaxen joins the Delaware, the confluence is known as the Lackawaxen Eddy. It was on the Pennsylvania side where the Western writer, Zane Grey, made his home, wrote 13 of his novels, and vigorously pursued the smallmouth bass. His home is now a museum, and may be visited. On the New York side, the Federation of Hunting and Fishing Clubs of New York have and will be stocking the Halfway Brook in Barryville, Beaverbrook, a few miles north, and Ten Mile River in the Town of Tusten. The Delaware itself abounds in brown trout, rainbows, walleyes, smallmouth bass, largemouth, pickerel, muskies, carp and eels. The area is blessed wtih stunning beauty and it is not entirely unlikely that the sportsman will be thrilled by the sight of wild turkey, deer and bear, or an occasional glimpse of the Bald Eagle on its fishing forays in the river valley. Your New York or Pennsylvania license permits you to fish both sides of the Delaware. Licenses can be obtained locally.

Accommodations and food can be had at Reber's Motel and Restaurant. They serve shad and shad roe during the season. Also located in Barryville, the Cedar Rapids Inn has food and lodging, and accommodations can be had at the Kittatinny Campgrounds. All are located on Route 97, and 12 miles further north is Bob Lander's motel, which has accommodations.

Before coming, I would advise you to call the Upper Delaware River Area Fishing Information "Hot Line." It gives you daily reports on shad, bass, trout, etc., and water conditions. You can call any time. It is a 24-hour service, courtesy of Hagemann's Tackle Shop in Shohola, Pa. The phone number is 1-717-559-7411.

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East End REPORT
with Bob Lee

The East End fishing scene is starting to show signs that other species have started to move in. We have scattered reports of striped bass, weakfish and mackerel. These fish, coupled with the already great cod-fishing and flounder fishing (not to mention blackfish, pollack and snow-shoes) are making the East End fishing picture brighter with each passing day. Codfishing continues to be excellent off Block Island and the SW Ledge. Flounder can only be termed great. The large sea flounder have made a showing at Tobacco Lot. Mackerel and small weaks are at Jessups. Scattered weakfish action a at the Shinnecock Canal also.

MONTAUK

Captain Phil Lewis, skipper of the charter boat **Adios** reports he sailed the first trip of this season Saturday. Weather conditions were bad and th e fishing was slow. Sunday's fishing was much better. Tom Walsh of Bald-win hit a bonanza, catching 120 cod in the 5 to 15 lb. range. The Adios was anchored at the SW Ledge and most of the cod were caught in only two hours fishing time. Captain Lewis said he has lots of open dates for cod, pollock and snowshoe flounder.

Captain Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** tells us that the codfishing remains good at Block Island. The **Marlin IV** and **V** have been sailing almost everyday. Along with cod some pollack, blackfish and snowshoe flounder are being caught.

Shanes Marina in **Island Park** reports the **Montauk** based charter boat **Hurry Up** did a job on codfish Friday. Harvey and Robert Shane

The Bess party from Bingham-ton, N.Y. totalled 75 cod to 23 lbs. during a recent charter board the Montauk charter boat, "Blue Fin IV."

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along with two friends nailed 127 cod in the 6-15 lb. class at SW Ledge. All the fish took clam baits.

Gone Fishing Marina in **Montauk** reports good codfishing at Block Island, SW Ledge and Sub Buoy. The flounder fishing is excellent just outside the inlet at Gin Beach. Big flounder have moved into Tabaccolot.

Captain Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** reports codfishing remains excellent, with catches of 150 fish daily. Blackfish, pollack, and snowshoe flounder are mixed in. The flounder fishing is excellent. Robert McDowd of Richmond Hill had a 4 lb. 14 oz. flounder along with 60 codfish Sunday. The **Montauk** went flounder fishing and boated 42 snowshoes to 3 lbs.

Captain Bill Ricca of the charter boat **Alyssa Ann** reported good flounder fishing at Tobacco Lot. On Saturday the **Alyssa Ann** had 30 flounder, 20 of which were over 2 lbs. Three of the flounder were in the 3¼ to 4 lb. class. Eastern Plains Point holds some good flounder fishing but they are not as big as the fish in TobaccoLot.

SOUTH FORK

Captain Artie Lach, skipper of the **Sag Harbor** based open boat **Wilhelric** reports excellent flounder action at Orient and Petty's Bight. The flounder are somewhat smaller but the fishing is fast and furious. Average catches are 30 to 50 fish per man. Captain Lach said there are plenty of flounder off of Gardiner's Island, Green Hills, and SE of the Ruins. The fish run from 1½ to 4 lbs. Frank Hoffman of Westbury had the pool fish of 2½ lbs. and 35 others on Saturday. Weather is still a big factor. If it's not the rain, it's strong winds. The **Wilhelric will not sail** May 8th, Mother's Day.

Chris Salb of **Bayview Marine Fishing Station** in **Sag Harbor** reports wind kept many of the fishermen from leaving the dock this past weekend. The die-hards who did venture out caught plenty of fat flounder. On Friday Jim McMahon and Joe Taglivia of Sag Harbor caught 45 flounder at the ferry slip on an incoming tide. The flounder fishing is holding very well at Mashomack Pt., Cedar Pt, Kelly Pt, and South Ferry. Mackerel are in at Jessup's and some small weakfish in the 2-4 lb. range are mixed in.

Publisher Richard Reina and Managing Editor William Muller had an excellent day Saturday fishing for flounder in the Sag Harbor area. They fished the Ferry slip between North Haven and Shelter Island and caught 40 flounder to 2 lbs. Incoming tide and mussel baits turned the trick.

In **Noyac** the **Noyac Marina** tells us that Lou Graziano of Noyac did it again and caught the first weakfish of the season. Lou was jigging for mackerel at buoy 17 when he took the

THE Fisherman

Skillful Angling Award Program

Any angler who lands a fish meeting the minimum qualifying weight for eligible species will receive a certificate suitable for framing along with a colorful patch in recognition of their accomplishments. All catches must be made in accordance with current International Game Fish Association regulations and weighed at an **Official Fisherman Weigh Station.**

Best of Species

Winners will be divided into three categories: Overall, Junior Division (youngsters 16 and under), and a Surf Fishing Division in which only striped bass, weakfish and bluefish are eligible. Anglers landing the largest of each species in their division will receive a handsome, engraved plaque denoting their feat.

Release Award

Any angler releasing a fish meeting the minimum required weight for the Skillful Angling Award will receive a certificate suitable for framing. Fish may be weighed on any portable scale although estimated weights are acceptable for the Release Award. One certificate per species per angler please.

Al Reinfelder Memorial Award

This coveted trophy is given annually to the angler landing the largest striped bass (boat or surf) entered in the Skillful Angling Award Program.

Rules & Regulations

Fish must be caught on rod and reel in accordance with I.G.F.A. regulations. Contest runs from April 1, 1983 to November 30, 1983. Entries received after December 10, 1983 will be disqualified. An incomplete entry blank may result in disqualification of your catch. The editorial staff of The Fisherman reserves the right to award prizes as they see fit. All decisions are final.

GENESEE
BEER & ALE

Eligible Species

Inshore Bottom Fish

Winter Flounder	2
Blackfish	5
Codfish	30
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	5

Inshore Game Fish

Striped Bass	30
Bluefish	15
Weakfish	10
Pollock	20

Offshore Big Game

Bluefin Tuna	200
Mako Shark	200
White Marlin	60
Swordfish	100

Freshwater Game Fish

Brown Trout	3
Brook Trout	2
Rainbow Trout	2
Largemouth Bass	4

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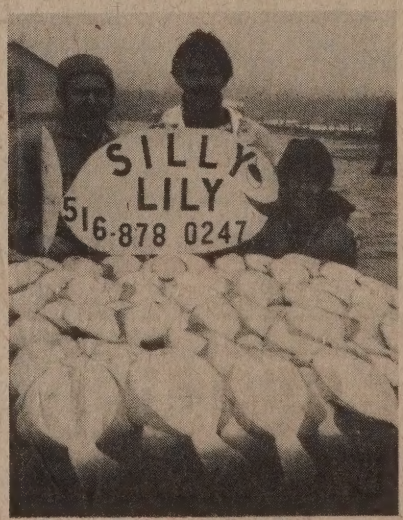

Frank O'Donnell and Tom and Steve Thornton caught these 65 large flatties in Moriches Bay while fishing out of Silly Lily Fishing Station.

weak. The netters are getting a few small weaks at Jessups. Flounder fishing is holding up very well at buoys 16 and 17. Worms, mussels and clam baits are all effective.

In **Southampton**, Thom Speck of **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reports good flounder action in Shinnecock Bay. The Basket Area seems to hold the largest concentration of these flatties. Three of Thom's customers fished the Basket Saturday and caught 54 flounder in the 2 lb. range. The Shinnecock Canal is still spotty and no weakfish have been caught as yet (just a few stragglers). Lou Vetrek and son Greg caught 60 flounder, fishing the waters around Acabonac. Al Ratner, Lou Colon and Jay Len had a "cooler full" of flounder at Promised Land.

In **Hampton Bays Corr's Marina** reports good flounder action over the weekend. Most of the boats are coming back with 30 to 50 fish per boat, fishing the Basket area. Mussel and sandworms are best in the bait department. A few weaks have been caught in the Shinnecock Canal. The netters are picking up small weaks and bass.

South Shore REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Five consecutive days of sun and warm temperatures since the middle of last week seemed to put the flounder fishing back on the track in both Moriches and Great South Bay. Excellent flounder fishing was reported from Moriches Bay and Great South Bay anglers got in their innings as well.

The warming trend also coincided with the appearance of some new faces on the fishing scene and it shouldn't be long before they're established enough to take some of the pressure off of their flatfish friends. The only confirmed weakfish catches included a 1½ pounder taken by a flounder fisherman off of Heckscher but a four fish catch from W. Channel was alluded to over the marine band radio and a Captree open reported witnessing 4 fish being caught in the Atlantique-Ocean Beach area by private boatmen on Sunday. Several blackfish reports were echoed from Great South Bay by folks seeking flounder and a gillnetter working outside of F.I. Inlet reported taking not only bass and weakfish but a number of bluefish as well.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

"Very good to excellent" was how Gary Grunseich described the flounder fishing for most rental customers who worked the area north of buoys 41 and 42 from his **Silly Lilly Fishing Station**. Heavy chumming virtually guaranteed a good score from this area during the latter part of last week and through the weekend. Even Saturday's wind didn't crimp the fishing as boats returned with good scores before noon, when the breeze really kicked up. Among those who sampled the fishing, were Gene and ceil Greenstein who needed only 3 hours to put away 68 nice flatties on Friday. Joe and Lenny Entler returned to the station on Sunday with 72 fish in the cooler.

From **Skidmores Fishing Station** in **East Moriches**, Jim DeVita spoke of "lots and lots of real nice flatties (a pound an up) being taken in the vicinity of Haven's Point. Jim suggested working east of the point on the flood and west of it during the ebb. Sands and bloods both effective int he bait department but chum is the real key - the more the merrier." Richie Leath, Jim Nicolaidis and John DeVita tallies 90 flatties on Thursday while regulars Matt and John Viol teamed to put away 89 fish on Saturday.

Larry Dallaire of **L & M Marine** spoke of excellent flounder fishing in the bay though most of the week and weekend. Unlike last week when tide played a key role in the fishing, fish bit equally well on both tides. Among the better scores made over the weekend was the 130 fish catch tallies by Bob Casillas, Robert Rivera, and Cynthia Mazzochi and her 11 year old son Adam.

Fares aboard the **Moriches Bay** open boat, **Leo D**, got to sample some hot action during mid-week at buoys 27 and 29. Fishing remained top shelf though the weekend but the scene of the action changed to the buoy 42 area on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Included among Saturday's fares were 20 members of Ronkonkoma Moose Lodge who totalled 475 flatties between them. Sunday's pool winner was young Keith Schwartz who decked a 2.11 pounder as part of a doubleheader.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

A few flounder continue to be taken from local docks reported George Ruland of **J&J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. The trout fishing in West Lake, Patchogue has been creating more of a stir than the flounder, however. A number of nice browns and rainbows to 14 inches have been obliging anglers using flies or spinners. Steve

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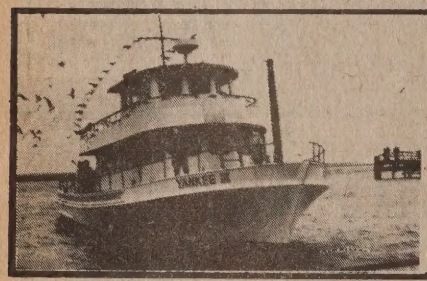

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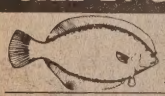

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Musso had 6 of the fish on Sunday.

From "Rod" DiGiacomo of **J&R Sport Center** in **Oakdale** came word of a 1½ lb. weak taken by an angler working off of Heckscher for flounder. Mackerel fishing is still erratic but rough seas on the weekend didn't help things any. Some very good flounder scores made this past week in Dickerson Channel and off of Atlantique but the north side of the bay is about finished. "Rod" told of lots of trout in the 8-12 inch range being taken in Bubbles, Rattles and Cutting's Pond with flies accounting for many of the fish.

Irene Cioffi, of **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** in **East Islip** looked over a 33 fish catch made by Amavel Bento at Ocean Beach on Friday. Largest flattie of the bunch was a hefty 2½ pounder. Irene had no word on macks or weakfish but that should all change by next week. For freshwater fans, lots of small trout being taken in Bubble Falls with flies rather than worms doing the most damage.

From **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** in **Bay Shore**, Carl Miller announced the winners of his April Flounder Derby. Roy Carbona topped all comers with 2¾ lber., while Ray Burcer and Tony LaCount nailed down 2nd and 3rd place respectively. A Great South Bay Tourney for ladies only running from June-August is next on tap. Pre-registration (prior to June 1st) is required. On the fishing front, Carl knew of very good flounder fishing at West Island Dickerson Channel on Thursday and Friday. Private boat scores of 40-60 fish were not out of the ordinary. Carl knew that mackerel were found SW of the Inlet in 60 feet of water on Thursday but a rough ocean on the weekend put the lid on this fishing. A few guys tried Ocean Beach for weaks with no results. Their sandworms did find several blackfish, however.

According to Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Bay Shore** open boat **Casey Lee,** flounder fishing couldn't have been better the latter part of last week. Included in Jim Giavatano's 30 fish catch on Thursday, were 5 double-headers. He also had a 2 lb. 5 oz. pool fish. Sixty-eight-year-old Ruth Donato had 22 fish the same day. Twelve-year-old Mike Rappold tallied 24 fish on Friday's trip while Ken Gulte and Charlie Payne took home 2 dozen fish on Sunday. The skipper has been working Dickerson Channel, about a 20 minute run from the dock.

Captain Carl Paserno of the **Captree** open boat **Jib VI** called to say that he got in some real good shots at the flatties this past week and weekend. Sunday was a good day with Vincent Paserno taking home 28 nice fish. On Friday, Debbie and Peter Papula teamed with four other couples to take 200 fish while Tom Marks and his buddy Ed Totalled 53 flatties on Thursday's trip. Most fares take home 12-15 fish on the average. Carl has been fishing close by, alternating between Dickerson Channel, Atlantique, Kismet and the Sore Thumb. He

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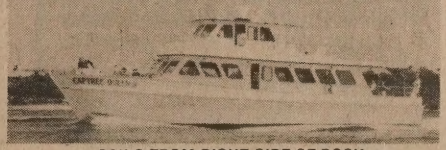

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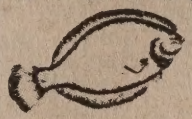
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reminded that he is switching to two half day trips (8AM-Noon and 1-5PM) on weekends only. Weekdays will remain full day trips.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph II** said that flounder fishing came back after last week's lull. He found some good action this past week in Dickerson Channel as well as off of Atlantique and Point O' Woods. Charlie had some other interesting tidbits to report as well. On Saturday, a 4 lb. striper came aboard while Sunday saw 7 blacks in the 2-5 lb. class taken on flounder rigs. Same day, the keen eyed skipper spied 4 weaks netted by private boatmen near Ocean Beach. Figuring on a decent showing of tiderunners by the weekend, Charlie will begin his daily evening weakfish runs on Friday, May 6.

"Very good flounder fishing this past week" according to Mrs. Ben Litwin of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Ben Litwin.** Most fishing is being done between Atlantique and the Sore Thumb. Peter Navetta had a 6 lb. blackfish on Sunday's trip.

Captain Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** felt that the flounder fishing had returned to normalcy after a brief lull. Fares average 15 fish a man most days, but each trip sees some fares with scores in the 20s. Clam Pond (Atlantique) and the Sore Thumb have been getting most of the attention. Fish are mixed in size with most in the 3/4 to 1 lb. class. Gordon reminded that he, too, will be beginning evening weakfish trips. Watch his ad for details.

Captain Joe Evans of the **Captree** charter boat **Sea Bird** said that members of the Northland Rod and Gun Club tallied over 200 flounder on a weekend charter. Pod fish went over 2 lbs. The skippers spent most of the day anchored up off of Atlantique and Clam Pond.

Captain Bob of the charter boat **Capt. Leo** found good fishing on Friday, Saturday and Sunday off of Atlantique. Individual catches ranged between 10 and 20 fish a man each day.

Captain Ed Laske of the charter boat **Dixie** reported real good flounder fishing for a party from Farmingdale College on Thursday, the Sal Osso party on Saturday and the Bob Meyer group on Sunday. Fishing each day was done near Clam Pond and many anglers had from 20-30 flatties averaging 3/4 to 1 lb. Both the ebb and flood produced equally well according to the skipper.

Over at **Augie's Bait & Tackle** in **Babylon**, Ford Austin told of very good flounder fishing in recent days in Dickerson Channel, the north end of Snakehill, and west of Frank and Dick's in the State Channel. The action coincided nicely with the Babylon Tuna Club's Flounder Derby which was settled by Lou Clemenz and his 2½ lb. flattie. Dick Orlandi of **Augie's** took 300 big mackerel on Friday in 75 feet of water 200 degrees from the inlet. Most were 2-3

pounders. Fred overheard radio chatter indicating that a private boat had taken four weaks in West channel but had nothing to report in the way of weigh-ins. A local gill netter reported taking bass, weaks and blues along the open beach late last week.

The **Babylon** open boat **Luci III** reported very good flounder the latter half of last week in the State Channel but added that the fishing slowed to a pick over the weekend. Friday was the best day of the week with Bob Rose taking 51 fish by himself. Many fares finished the day with 30-40 fish.

From **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**, Mike Andreani called the overall flounder picture good. He knew of some nice scores made this past week in Dickerson's Channel and the State Channel. Carl Piazza and his son John had 17 nice flatties in the Babylon cut on windy Saturday. On Sunday, John Brown, Al Jones and Bruce clicked with 40 fish from Massapequa Cove. He knew, too, of one boatman who found 80-90 big mackerel in 60 feet of water SW of the Inlet during mid-week. A few nice trout in the 14 to 15 inch range coming from Carll's River in Babylon.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

With decent weather prevailing through Friday, good catches of flounder were made in this area. Although the rains left us for the weekend, their place was taken by strong buffeting winds which while not wiping out the inshore and offshore action, hampered it noticeably. Even so, good solid catches were made right through Sunday by various anglers and boats.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

Flounder catches remained fair through the weekend said Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Tackle** in Seaford. Hotspots were the west side of the drawbridge, the first bridge, Four Corners, Zachs Bay and Massapequa Cove. Best baits were mussel and fish to 1/ lbs. were brought into the store. The two most important points were to fish all around the top of the tide and to put down plenty of mussel chum.

The word from **Capt. Eddy's Fishing Station** is that Thursday and Friday the rental skiffs had the best catches of the week being in the 50s and 60s per rental skiff. On Saturday high boat was 30 flounder. The station

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advised that Massapequa Cove fishing on the slopes in 6-7 feet of water worked best on worm, mussel and plenty of chum. Catches were in spurts. Both tides have been working and fish have been mixed to 2½ lbs. and fatties at that. A few tommy cod have also been caught on flounder rigs. Also in Seaford, **Custom Tackle** passes the word that on Friday John Dthlefsen had 15 flatties from 1 to 1¾ lbs. on bloods and clam chum on a flood tide east of Squaw. On Sunday Frank DiCarlo hoisted 41 flounder fishing in the State Channel just east of Zachs Bay on incoming using bloods and clam chum. Also on Sunday Mike fishing on the Michelle G. scored with 25 flounder on blood worms and chum working the first Wantagh bridge on the flood.

John at **Pop's Fishing Station** called to say the fishing picked up tremendously with the sunshine. Kenny O'Connell and Eddie Larme hoisted 163 flatties from 1¼ to 2½ lbs. Francine Maisonet and husband had a five gallon bucket of flounder including a 2½ lber. Russ Barone had 30 fish. Action has been at Four Corners and Massapequa Cove with worms, clams and mussels working best on incoming.

We hear from **Merrick Tackle** in **Bellmore** that the Meadowbrook Bridge area and the Coast Guard Station have been producing plenty of flounder on worms, clam and mussels. Some blue claw crabs are also being glommed here and there.

As for the boats sailing out of Freeport, charter boat **Lady J III** on Saturday had a fair pick of flounder in local waters for Coe Electric Company of NYC after having to abort a mackerel trip due to heavy seas. Sunday's flounder trip was a good one for Farmingdale Fire Department on worm and clam bait, fishing from Freeport west into Reynolds Channel and Long Creek and Swift Creek. A couple of fish were in the 2½ lb. category and some fares caught in the 20s.

From the **Starstream II** we hear that despite the high winds, rough sea conditions and a very fast drift both Saturday and Sunday, passengers caught mackerel both days and in fact caught very well considering the conditions. These were all big Boston macks. Catches have been made just east of Jones Inlet anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour from the dock. If the weather had been good, the passengers would really have bagged up like gangbusters said the skipper.

Aboard Capt. Tony Presto's charter boat **Mickey II** Sunday's group fromk IBM had a steady pick of flounder in the strong winds on clam and worm on a flooding tide working Fundy Bridge and Creek plus the Jones Beach piers for fewer, but larger fish. Very few throwbacks for the day with fish averaging a pound and the pool going 2¼ lbs. Captain Tony says he is now starting to book fluke trips for the season.

Aboard the charter boat **Capt. Gary** Saturday the Dairyley Company of Maspeth picked away at flounder. Ray Nimmo was high hook with 21 flatties and took the pool with a two pounder. Fishing was in Reynolds Channel and Swift Creek. Sunday's trip for Herder Followcraft Lodge #698 of Whitestone, led by Tom Gross saw Bob Crook take the pool with a 2½ lbers. and high hook honors with 20 flounder. Tied for 2nd place were Henry Jocobs and Werner Kneisel. First timer 8-year-old Charlie Roelobsem, Jr. had his first taste of catching flounder. Small blackfish were also caught at the CG station.

Captain Sy of the **Bluefin Fleet** spoke of very good floundering for both of his boats Saturday and Sunday, a big improvement over the recent lull. Sunday was the best day with plenty of fat flatties pulled up. Pools on both boats were over 2 lbs. Sunday. They fished Reynolds Channel on both tides with worm and mussel and plenty of clam chum. Doubles were not uncommon and blacks, fluke and sundials made their presence known. Aboard the **BF III** Saturday's pool went to LeGrande Ahlers with a 1½ pounder. Sunday's pool went to Marty Doughtery with a 2½ lber. while Larry Roelofsen was high hook with 14 fish. Aboard the **BF II** pool winner was Alex Barbetch and the pool honors went to Delmo Tarsitano.

We learn from the **Freeport Boatmens Association** that excellent mackerel fishing was had Sunday in the NA area. These were big Bostons up to 2½ lbs. Very good flounder catches were had by **Super Spray II, Acme II** and **Lady J III. Capt. II** slaughtered flatties in the Merrick Bay area and all big fish. This was mostly on a flooding tide on worms, mussel and clam. The **Corsair** did likewise on the weekend. Areas fished were Reynolds Channel, Garretts Lead, Swift Creek with the best being Merrick Bay. There are exactly 14 openings left for the **Super Spray's** May 30th special offshore cod and pollock wreck trip, so reserve now if you want some of this action.

The **Miss Freeport II** called via the marine operator to advise that Friday and Saturday saw the best floundering that he's had for the week locally with the size fish increased. The skipper says now is the time to come on down before the waters warm and the flounder depart.

Over in Baldwin Jack at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** saw lots of flounder brought in right through Sunday from Middle Bay, Scow Creek, Garretts Lead and off the Boces High School. Fish ran 3/4 to 1½ lbs. and both tides were working. Worm and mussel and plenty of chum did the job.

Down in Point Lookout, the two trip a day **Miss Point Lookout** passed on the information that Thursday's morning trip had Charlie Kaval swinging up the pool fish while on the afternoon trip Bill Patty and fiance

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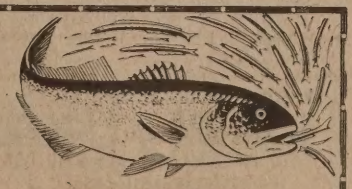
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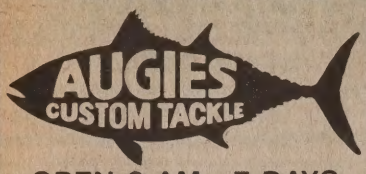

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Cookie were high hooks and also had a 5 lb. blackfish that took the pool. On Friday's AM trip, the best of the week, roughly 350 flounders were caught. Louis Vavrina had a pool flounder of 2¼ lbs. Carl Simon was high hook with 29. Paul Stormer of LIC had 21 while Bill Stratford of NJ had 20. The afternoon trip saw Jay Diluca with a 2½ lb. pool fish. Saturday's AM trip was very good with Andy Neilsen hoisting 21 flounder and the pool going to Bernard Armstrong. Saturday's afternoon trip saw Mike Koretzky nab the pool. The flood has been best on worms and the boat has been working Reynolds Channel, Garretts Lead, Swift Creek and the golf course. Tuesday saw Pete Catterman of Flushing with 19 fish. Catches averaged 8 to 15 flatties a man. Barbara and Hank had 28. On Sunday Cub Scout Pack 544 hoisted nearly 400 flounder from 1/2 to 2¼ lbs. along with a 2½ lb. fluke. Still plenty of flounder in the flats. Larry of **Mako Marina** had roughly 150 flounder in the flats. Please note that all tickets are sold for the afternoon trip only of Saturday, May 7th.

Aboard the Pt. Lookout charter boat **Marie III** Saturday's flounder trip worked Garretts Lead, Reynolds and the golf course for a slow pick on small to medium flounder on incoming. Sunday's trip for Double T Fishing Club saw excellent results working Reynolds from East Rockaway to Jones Inlet spots on both tides. Worm, mussel and clam all worked equally well. Pool honors went to Richie Kerney of Massapequa Park with a 2 lb. 14 oz. flounder. Second place went to Roy Kappauf with a 2 lb. 8 oz. fish and 33 others. Wild Bill of District 6 had 29, and Andy Young had 36 flounder. Ninety percent of th catch was between 1 and 2 lbs.

Ed's Fishing Station reported that Len Ophoff, age 12, helped by dad and his brother, totalled 65 flounder in the Flats including a 2¼ and 2-1/8 lbers. Worm and mussel plus plenty of chum did the trick. Another skiff during the week had 40 flounder fishing buoys 16/19. Cinder, Sea Dog and Swift Creeks are also producing.

To the west, **Long Beach Sports Marina** told of excellent catches at buoys 3 and 9 in Reynolds on the week for both rentals and private boats. The rentals 25 to 75 flounder a boat. Jerry and Lee Resnick and Joe Dalbo had 25 fish in just two hours. Sixty-five was the total head count for Bob Sweeney, Bob Winkler and Russ Thomas in one boat. Both tides are producing on blood or sand worms. and plenty of mussel chum.

Word from Capt. Ron Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** is that his charters have been having very good mackerel fishing right through Friday working between the Farm and The Jones Beach tower. Ninety percent are the big Bostons said Ron from 2-2½ lbs. Ten percent are spikes, macks in the half pound variety. It was flounder Sunday in the wind and good results were had at Reynolds buoy 5. The

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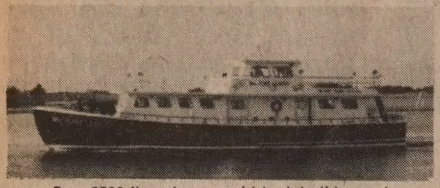

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skipper advises he still has some open fall dates for striped bass.

From **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** we also hear of plenty of flounder to be caught in Reynold Channel particularly off the Long Beach Firehouse, Magnolia Blvd. Pier and at the Atlantic Beach Bridge on bloods, sand, mussel and clam belly chum. Silver Point jetty and the AB bridge have been producing 2 to 3 lb. blacks on sand worms and clam. Good catches of mackerel in 60 feet of water southeast of Jones. The Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club Flounder Derby was won by Bob Corbelli with a 1 lb. 12 oz. fish. Tied for second place with 1.8 fish were John Feeney, Tony Siniscalshi and Dr. John Gavencak.

NEW YORK BIGHT

From **Skippy's Bait and Tackle** we learned that Julie Orlando pulled 65 flounders to 2 lbs. 4oz in Reynolds Channel at Cement Block on mussels Saturday. A few blackfish are also being caught in Reynolds Channel. Overall, the floundering has been very good. There have also been some respectable mackerel scores offshore in 60 feet of water on out.

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle in Jamaica Bay tells of loads of flounder being caught off both north and south channel bridges from 1 to 1½ lbs. Some blacks being taken on the slack from 1/2 to 1 lbs. on clam and worm. Quantities of both flounder and blacks have been very good.

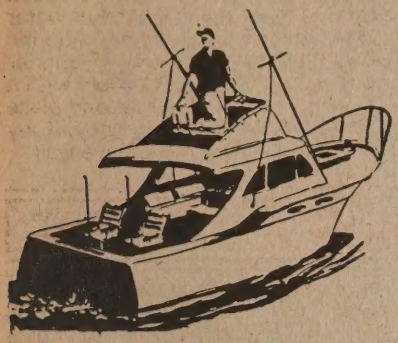
J-Bay Boat Rental on Jamaica Bay reports very good flounder catches being made at Northwest Point to the tune of 15 to 50 per boat depending on how long the party stays out. All moving tides are working with bloods and mussel chum the main attractors. Fish are running 1 to 1½ lbs. average and some eels are also being caught.

At Sheepshead Bay, the **Elsie K III** had some excellent floundering Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with the weekend off a bit due to the blustery weather and bouncy seas. Flounders were caught to 2 lbs. Sunday's pool winner was Bernie Zibinsky with a 2 lb. 1 oz. flattie. The boat fished Keansburg, Keyport and Sandy Hook. Captain Tom says decent weather is the key to very decent catches.

Aboard Capt. Tommy's **Pilot Ii** great blackfishing was had during the week off Elbron, NJ, fish to 7 lbs. on green crab. Fifteen to 25 blacks a man was common. The weekend was off naturally due to strong winds and poor conditions. Tom says the blackfish are definitely there and fares will blitz them when the seas settle down. The boat is also sailing afternoon flounder and blacks Friday, Saturday and Sunday. See ad for details.

Over the whitecaps in Staten Island, Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** tells of stripers up to 3 lbs. at Great Kills Park from the beach. Fish of 11, 15 and 17 lbs. were reported.

Incoming tide and sand worms were a couple of the key ingredients to these catches. Schoolies also off Cliff Street. Flounder has been good to excellent at Great Kills Harbor, especially at the sand bar at the entrance or the hole at the back of the harbor. Princess Bay and Annandale have also been hot. Stapleton Piers 17 and 18 produced some smaller flounder plus lots of tommy cod and eels



North Shore REPORT with Marty Garrell

A great week of flounder action was followed by a breezy weekend on the East End that slowed down action somewhat in that sector. West end fishing on smaller fish remained excellent during the entire week. Catches of the first spring blackfish made news on the Western Sound, but mackerel were surprisingly absent from most reports.

WESTERN SOUND

John's Gun spoke of some nice flounder from Larchmont with a few blackfish in the New Rochelle area.

Jack's Bait from City Island saw blackfish to 2 pounds from Hart's Island and the CBS Tower and figures that it's time to stockpile fiddlers this week.

Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** weighed a 6 pound tautog taken by Ray Franco off Morgan's Jetty. Morgan's, Pryble and Dosoris continued to yield great flounder fishing. Right on schedule, local waters yielded the first bass of the season for Phil Nasi, who took a 5 pound linesider on a Rebel. The Ray Serafinis, Junior and Senior, had a pair of small schoolies off the Bayville reef on worms and squid.

Virtually all the party craft seemed to be working the Bayville beaches in water depths ranging to 30 feet. Pool fish were typically blackfish to 5

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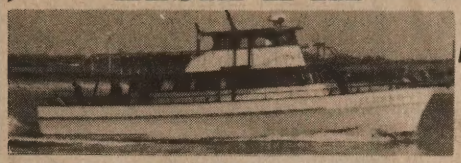

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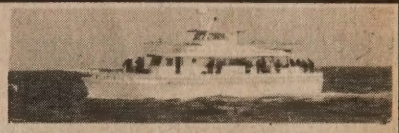

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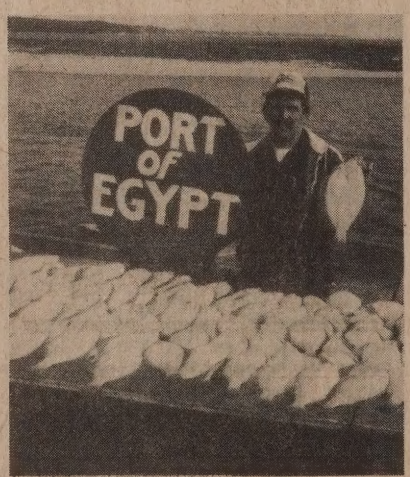

Dominic DeRanieri used worms and mussel chum to rack up 103 flounder between 1 and 2 lbs. fishing out of Port of Egypt Fishing Station in Southold. The lone angler worked Petty's Bight and the Orient fish traps.

pounds, and the larger flounder often ran in the 1 to 1½ pound range. Joe Ferrara of the **Ebb Tide III** described high hooks that ran anywhere from 25 to 60 fish. The **Apache** found a few fish close to 2 pounds on the edge of the deeper slopes, and Dom Cerbone mentioned 10 fish taken, wearing DEC tags, so far this season. The **North Star** also got in on the Bayville scene and Pete Pearson on the **Klondike VIII** out of New Rochelle tried the zone off Eatons and the Center Island reef and found larger fish, but hardly numbers sufficient to support a full boatload of anglers.

Joe Fink of the **Lady Lil III** out of **Glen Cove** tried Oak Neck beaches on light tides as well as Bayville. He said that the few blacks were generally taken on worms.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

From the **Huntington** area came reports from **Huntington Prop** and **Ronnie's**. Sizes of flounder were best off Makamah and Callahans, with good numbers in the bays and off Marshall Fields. The best flounder weighed in local shops last week was 2 pounds, 1 ounce.

Bowman's in **Norhtport** reported early blackfish from lobster pots only, and Coast Guard sightings of mackerel off Eatons and Lloyds.

Sal Gatuso at **Sutlers** in **Port Jefferson** saw a couple of boats with sizeable catches of mackerel but these were exceptions. The largest flounder seen in the Port Jefferson area came from Wading River but White Beach had a few good fish too, according to Tim Caraftis at the **Caraftis Fishing Station**. Largest flatties were in the 2½ pound class.

From **Mount Sinai** came word of continued excellent flatfish action off Shoreham plus some local small blackfish to 2½ pounds. Ralph Davenport at **Ralph's** and Dick Brown at **Dick's** described the difficulties that small boaters had over the weekend with winds preventing any serious attempts to track mackerel. One mackerel angler checked in at Dick's last week with an early weakfish taken on a diamond jig. Most local flounder in the area run 1-1½ pounds.

Packy Collins of the **Ever Ready** called to say that most of the flatties this week were legitimate keepers in the ½ to 1 pound range with pool winners from the shallow water around Lilco and Eatons running 1¼ pounds. Orpheus Hu filled two pails with flatties and won Saturday's pool with a 4½ pound tautog. Fred Wheeler took Sunday's pool with a blackfish over 7 pounds weighed at **Four Winds**. Baits of worms, clams and mussels produce equally well on most days, but worms led the ticket on Sunday. Many moves are often

necessary to fill the pails, even though the areas fished are relatively small.

NORTH FORK

There were still flounder in Flanders Bay and at the mouth of the Peconic River according to Ed Kopack at **Warren's** in Aquebogue.

Phil Sal Loria at **Capt. Marty's** mentioned several excellent catches of flounder in the South Race. One by Dominic DeRaineri and Jack Thatcher included nearly 100 fish to 2 pounds.

At the **Port of Egypt** in **Southold** the talk was still "wall to wall" flounder all the way from Mulford to the Orient Ramp. Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport** told us that catches from Gardiners had already started. Publicity had caused tremendous crowds according to Ace Cottral at the Port of Egypt and White, and party boats were carrying capacity crowds during the week.

Further west on the Sound, the **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** had a number of outstanding catches of quality flounder during the week from Duck Pond west to the Northville Pipe. Among the fish taken from the pipe area were some of the largest flounder of the week, including one 18 inch, 2 pound, 13 ounce flattie weighed at the station.

Even in the wind on Saturday, the Duck Pond area continued to produce fish to 1¾ pounds for Jerry McGrath of the **Nostalgia II**. VonDollen, Reda, Carra, Schwartz and Smith of Ozone Industries hauled 39 flounder from 23' of water despite 35 to 40 mile southwesterlies. John Wolf out of Mattituck Inlet was reported to have rescued a small boat fisehrman near the pipeline that day.

Most of the party and charter boats were happy to report on the Orient scene. Rod DeLisle of the **Prowler** called to say that Ted Lorros and a party of 5 prevailed for 100 fish despite Sunday's winds. High tide in 35' depths was the ticket. John Duggan of the **Peconic Star** told us that Saturday's catch off Petty's was still good with anglers cleaning fish on the docks for two hours after the boat landed, but that high winds began to take their toll by Sunday. At that point catches dropped to 15 flatties per fare. Connecticut boats have also been loading up and pulling large numbers of fish.

John Rainis of the **Blue Albatross** said that fish sizes off Petty's ran all the way from thypical 1-1½ pound fish to Rod Roderick's 2½ pound weekly pool winner. William Angel of the Bluebird club also had a fish that size on Saturday. Weekday fares were filleting fish until 8PM.

With fish sizes getting smaller off Petty's however, and with that area taking such a pounding, some of the Greenport-Orient boats are looking forward to opening at Gardiner's as soon as the weather permits.

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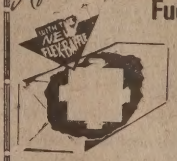

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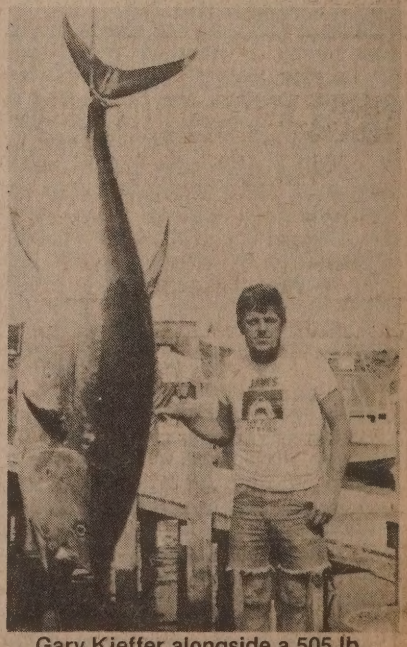

Gary Kieffer alongside a 505 lb. giant bluefin taken last summer aboard the Montauk Charter boat, "Ebb Tide."

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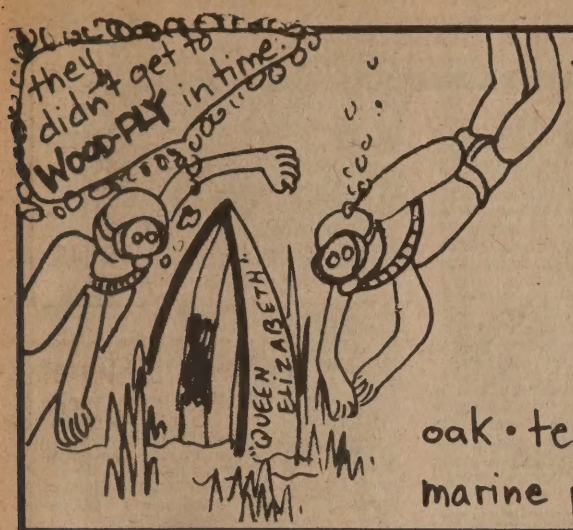

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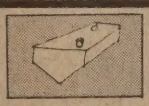

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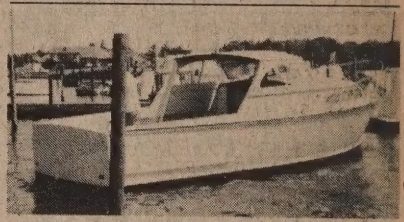

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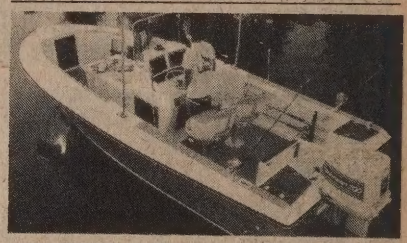

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#6 Sprout Flounder hooks. Hand-tied. 6/$1.00. AL KAPLAN, 35-63 80th St., Jackson Hgts. NY 11372.

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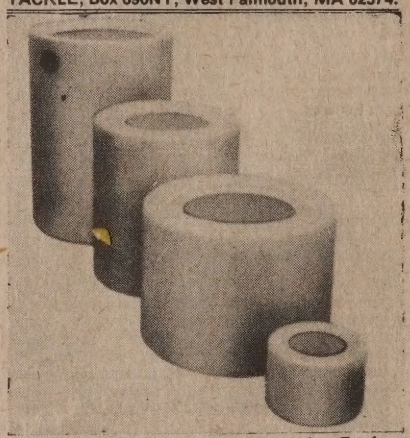

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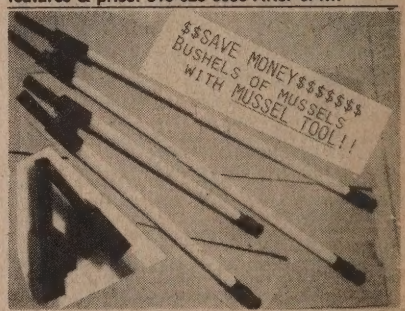

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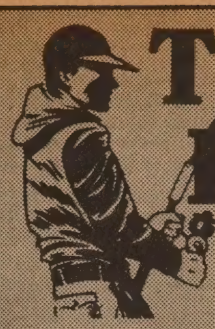

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High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . –0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	2:15	2:55	3:25	4:10	3:05	3:55	4:20	5:10	5:50	7:20	6:00	6:35	2:35	3:10	5/5
FRI.	3:15	4:00	4:25	5:05	4:00	4:50	5:20	6:05	7:10	8:10	6:55	7:25	3:35	4:05	5/6
SAT.	4:15	4:55	5:20	5:55	5:00	5:45	6:10	6:45	8:20	8:50	7:50	8:15	4:25	4:55	5/7
SUN.	5:15	5:45	6:10	6:40	5:55	6:30	7:00	7:25	9:00	9:20	8:35	9:00	5:15	5:40	5/8
MON.	6:05	6:30	6:55	7:20	6:45	7:10	7:40	8:05	9:35	9:50	9:25	9:45	6:05	6:25	5/9
TUES.	6:50	7:15	7:35	7:55	7:30	7:50	8:25	8:40	10:10	10:20	10:10	10:25	6:45	7:05	5/10
WED.	7:35	7:55	8:20	8:40	8:10	8:25	9:05	9:20	10:50	11:00	10:55	11:10	7:30	7:50	5/11
THURS.	8:20	8:35	9:00	9:15	8:50	9:05	9:45	10:00	11:30	11:40	11:35	11:50	8:15	8:30	5/12

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehobeth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	–0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point, north side	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	–0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	-0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rochelle	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	–1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 5/5	5:51	8:03
FRI. 5/6	5:50	8:04
SAT. 5/7	5:49	8:05
SUN. 5/8	5:47	8:06
MON. 5/9	5:46	8:07
TUE. 5/10	5:45	8:08
WED. 5/11	5:44	8:09

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 5/5	2:35AM	12:32PM
FRI. 5/6	3:07AM	1:33PM
SAT. 5/7	3:35AM	2:34PM
SUN. 5/8	4:01AM	3:35PM
MON. 5/9	4:26AM	4:39PM
TUE. 5/10	4:52AM	5:44PM
WED. 5/11	5:19AM	6:52PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
5/12	5/19	5/26	5/5

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	12:15	**6:25**	12:35	**6:50**
Fri.	1:05	**7:05**	1:15	**7:30**
Sat.	1:45	**7:45**	1:55	**8:10**
Sun.	2:25	**8:25**	2:35	**8:50**
Mon.	3:05	**9:05**	3:15	**9:30**
Tues.	3:45	**9:45**	3:55	**10:10**
Wed.	4:25	**10:30**	4:40	**10:50**
Thurs.	5:05	**11:15**	5:25	**11:40**

Herman's
WORLD OF SPORTING GOODS a GRACE company

FISHING SALE

***DAIWA* 130RL Spinning Reels**

9.99 reg. 19.99

Skirted spool and right/left hand retrieve.

160RL, reg. 19.99... 11.99

***GARCIA* 753 Cardinal Reels**

19.99 reg. 29.99

With rear drag; skirted spool; right/left ret.

752 Cardinal, reg. 31.99... 21.99

***RYOBI* SX-2 Reel with *BERKLEY* BC30 Rod**

21.98 sold sep. 30.98

Ryobi skirted spool spinning reel plus Berkley 6'6" fiberglass rod.

***ABU GARCIA* 9000 Spinning Reels**

15.99 orig. 29.99

Automatic bail trip; skirted spool and more.

9900, orig. 26.99.....13.99

***DAIWA* RG1655 Gold Series Reels**

31.99 reg. 39.99

Unique "autocast" control; rear drag; automatic bail trip.

***PLANO* pack-of-3 Tackle Boxes**

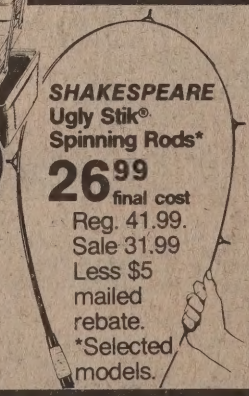
19.99 sold sep. 36.98

Double sided. With see-through tops.

***PLANO* 6303 Tackle Boxes**

9.99 reg. 12.99

3 large trays with 25 compartments.



SHAKESPEARE* Ugly Stik® Spinning Rods

26.99 final cost

Reg. 41.99. Sale 31.99 Less $5 mailed rebate.

*Selected models.

BROWNING

MITCHELL

***BROWNING* Rod Sale!**

Selected models. Assorted lengths. 20% OFF

***ABU GARCIA* 653 Reel with 2-pc. Rod and $5 mailed rebate.... 19.99**

***PENN* 209 Level Wind Reels with star drag.**

reg. 32.99.... 22.99

Sale now through Sunday. Fishing not at all stores

LONG ISLAND

Valley Stream: 260 W. Sunrise Highway (near Green Acres)
Garden City: Roosevelt Field
Massapequa: Sunrise Mall
Bay Shore: South Shore Mall
Huntington: Rte. 110 (near Walt Whitman Shopping Center)
Smithtown: Smith Haven Mall

NEW YORK CITY

- Third Ave. at 51st St.
- 135 W. 42nd St.
- 39 W. 34th St.
- 110 Nassau St.

Brooklyn: Kings Plaza
Queens: Douglaston Plaza
Queens Center
Staten Island: Staten Island Mall